the sea

JULIA SAWALHA Too gorgeous to be true

thelongweekend



TONY **BANKS** 'No Royal box for me, mate'

**Back page sport** 

JULIE **WALTERS** Loud, boozy, outrageous



# Blair shuts down the Commons bearpit

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair yesterday announced that he was ending the twiceweekly "Punch and Judy Show" at Prime Minister's Question Time as part of his efforts to breathe fresh air into the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister announced that he was replacing the twice-weekly 15-minute sessions, which had been criticised for encouraging "yah-boo, sound-bite politics". From 21 May, he will face questions once a week for half an hour.

Forcing the Prime Minister to answer questions about his whereabouts every Tuesday and Thursday has no place in the presidential style of the Blair administration. It is seen as a quaint exercise by other Western leaders. including President Bill Clinton, who iting Downing Street next week to meet the Prime Minister for the first time since the election.

But the decision to do away with the tradition was attacked by John Major, who spent six years answering questions from Mr Blair and his predecessor, Neil Kinnock, and may have relished his chance to get his own back. "It is true that PMQs is a burden to any Prime Minister. But that is the point of it. It makes the Prime Minister directly accountable to Parliament. The size of the government's majority in the House at present makes that accountability more important and not less," he said.

Mr Blair was braced for an outcry after informing Mr Major and other party leaders, including Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, who used a Punch and Judy show to launch his party's election cam-

Baroness Thatcher and Mr Major had to prepare meticulously for unexpected questions, taking up precious hours of briefing. The "open question" enabling hackbenchers to try to catch out the Prime Minister will stay, for the time being, but



Prime Ministers Questions

has occupied a central place in Commons bustness for more than 35 years. The 15-minute exchange, which begins just after Big Ben strikes 3.15 on a Tuesday and Thursday, is renowned around the world for its rowdy confrontational

It began in its current form in 1961, when it was intro-duced Harold Macmillan. In no other democracy ex-

cept Canada does the head. of Government have to appear so regularly in Paritiament to answer questions and reply to criticism. On seeing Prime Ministers Questions former US president George Bush commented: "I count my blessings for the fact that I don't have to go into that pit that John Major stands in, mose to nose with the Opposition all yelling at each other." The twice-weekly scrap has a cult television following in

there are moves to end that too. A new special select committee will be set up to review further changes to Prime Minister's Questions, and Downing Street sources confirmed that the Goverument will be suggesting that the "open question" should go. That could restrict MPs to

the Netherlands.

raising issues related to the questions on the Commons order paper, and may be resisted more fiercely than ending the

have made Prime Minister's Question Time an unlikely hit on cable television in the Unit-

A more sedate session of uestions may lose viewers, but Mr Blair is said to have found widespread distaste for the twice-weekly clashes on the doorsteps campaigning in the election. "The media coverage of it has changed the nature of the event itself. He felt that the public were fed up with the re-lentless, endless slanging match, Blair slagging off Major and Major slagging off Blair," said a Downing Street source.

"It is not very edifying and hopefully, this will change the nature of the debate."

Mr Ashdown, who was reg-ularly jeered by Tory and Labour backbenchers every time he entered the fray in Prime Minister's Questions in Mr Blair's move to make the sessions more serious, and more sustained in their questioning.

But the contestants for the Tory party leadership are loathe to give up their chance to show they can beat Mr Blair across the despatch box.

Michael Howard, the former home secretary, said: "I have no problem with looking again at the format of PMQs, but it is wrong to cut it down to once a week. Requiring the PM to answer to the House of Commons twice a week is good for democracy."
The Prime Minister this week

showed his anxiety to enforce a culture change in government by telling the Cabinet to "call me Tony". He will also sweep away the practice in Prime Minister's questions of repeating the set reply to questions about his

duties for the day. This resulted in Mr Major having to repeat five or six times each session the words, "I refer the Hon Member to the reply I gave earlier \_\_ Mr Blair believes this procedure is time-wasting

and baffling to the public.

Leading article, page 15 How to be a toff, page 18

I can only go by what I read in the news-papers, which is that Cherie Blair thinks I stink, harbour vile diseases and pee on the duvets. Yes, the press report merely said Cherie thought cats were "anhygienic" but we

all know what that means. See, the world divides into cat-haters and catlovers. Cat lovers prize our independence, killer instincts and unashamed enjoyment of physical pleasure - yes, pleasure! All the unfashionable, politically incorrect pleasures, from the scrunch of small hot bones, to the warmth of a roaring fire and the knowledge that one is going to stay askeep all damned day, to - well, let's face it, loud and promiscu-

the average labrador.

Cherie says she loves me, but I'm not so sure



ous sex in the open air. Are the Blairs an open-air sex family? I think not. I have long harboured doubts about

Labour. I think they're keener on the soft, wet, endlessly grateful dependency culture of Comment, page 19 They have no respect for hunting. It's all "oh, the

by Humphrey the Downing Street Cat

poor fox" and "oh the poor wee mousie". Pah! And this lot are puritans to boot. "Off welfare and into work", eh? Welfare is my lifestyle. Cherie darling, Family values? A blatant attack on the sexually liberated lifestyle which the feline community has enjoyed for generations. Over-indulgence? They've made "fat cats" bate figures for half the nation.

I'm a professional. They say "pose with the nice lady, Humphrey" and - OK, Peter, fellow feline - I'll pose. It goes with the job. But frankly, they've got a lot of ear-scratching, cosseting and fine dinners to come before they buy my trust. If not ... well, these guys better remember: around these parts, Sir Humphrey

Photograph: Rebecca Naden

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THE WORLD No1 BESTSELLER

ANGELA'S ASHES OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK flamingo

### QUICKLY

Venice in peril Police scaled the campanile of

St Mark's and arrested eight men who had commandeered a vaporetto, loaded a home-made armoured car on board and ordered the pilot to take them to the Piazza, where they climbed the belitower, unfurled a Venetian flag and claimed to be separatists seeking to liberate Venice from the colonialist Page 3 yoke of Rome.

Blair beef strategy Tony Blair is working on a strategy for lifting the European ban on British exports of beef, which could be the first prize to be won from a closer relationship with Britain's European

Rome not amused Rome is miffed by Britain's "triangle" with France and Ger-



### Tutankhamun's killer is revealed: it was the general by the pyramid

Crime Correspondent

In what must be the longest running "whodumit" of all time,

new evidence has emerged into the mysterious death, 3,000 years ago, of King Tutankhamun. The combined skills of a former Scotland Yard detective and a medical expert suggest that the boy pharaoh may have been murdered by one of his top officials or a general.

Ever since Tutankhamun, who died at the age of nine in 1352BC, was discovered buried in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt 1922 there has been intense speculation about his marder squad" to investigate the to support it."

marcer squar to investigate the case. Their findings, published on Monday, suggest that foul play ended the young king's life.

Analysis of X-rays of Tutankhamun's skull by Professor lan Isherwood, a retired neuroradiologist with 33 years experience, revealed a small depressed fracture in the back of the skull. Professor Isherwood believes the mjury was probably caused by a blow to the head which most likely took

place before his death. "During mummification you often get [this sort of injury] in limbs but not in the skull," he

Now the magazine MAG - said yesterday. He added: "It married the dead king's widow. Museums and Galleries - has doesn't imply mal-intent, unless Following Ay's death Horembrought together a "historic there's circumstantial evidence So the question is whether

there was anyone with a motive. In steps Graham Melvin, a former detective inspector with the Metropolitan police. His prime suspects are Ay, the king's vizier, and the head of the army, General Horemheb. "You would need two. If Ay was acting alone, wouldn't Horemheb have been angry with him for murdering his

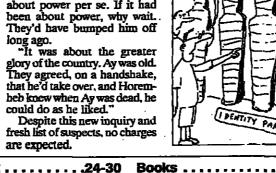
king? Anyway, Ay would have needed the army's support. Further circumstantial evidence is that Ay took over Tu-

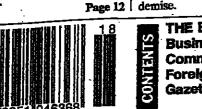
heb took power and destroyed the young Pharaoh's monu-ments. The name of Tutankhamun was removed from the list of kings.

always wins.

Mr Melvin said: "It wasn't about power per se. If it had been about power, why wait. They'd have bumped him off long ago.
"It was about the greater

glory of the country. Ay was old. They agreed, on a handshake, that he'd take over, and Horemheb knew when Ay was dead, he could do as he liked." Despite this new inquiry and





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tankhamun's throne and are expected. THE LONG WEEKEND

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### significant shorts

### Blunkett unveils unit to raise school standards

A new Government unit for driving up school standards yesterday emerged as a powerful coordinating body, connecting central government, schools, local authorities and a range of key education

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment, David Blunkett, said the Standards and Effectiveness Unit would be charged with driving forward Government policy to lift standards in all schools and, in particular, hitting literacy and numeracy targets for primary-age children.

The unit will be overseen by the School Standards Minister. Stephen Byers, and headed by Professor Michael Barber, former Dean of New Initiatives at London University's Institute of Education.

It will act as a advisory body to the Secretary of State over the establishment of a mechanism for consulting teachers and other educational partners on policy issues - a step much requested by education practitioners

Failing schools will also find themselves under the unit's watchful eye, as it advises the Secretary of State on ways to improve weak or failing institutions. Mr Byers yesterday received a report on all 281 of the country's failing schools for consideration this weekend, and is expected to announce action on the issue within the next fortnight.

### **Dublin demands inquiry into killing**

Dublin yesterday called for a high-level investigation into circumstances surrounding the beating to death of a Catholic man by loyalists in Portadown, amid allegations that police ignored pleas to come to the man's assistance.

Robert Hamill, a 25-year-old father of two, died in hospital on Thursday night, two weeks after suffering serious head injuries in an attack as he left a function at Portadown's St Patrick's Hall. Relatives claimed the loyalists called him "a Fenian bastard" and

Members of Mr Hamill's family told Irish radio that police in a RUC car, parked close to the scene of the attack, had ignored pleas to come to his aid and failed to give any medical help. Rosemary Nelson, solicitor for the Hamill family, confirmed a writ had been served on the RUC seeking damages for negligence, and said the circumstances of the attack were "very sinister".

#### Former BBC chief Wenham dies



Broadcaster Brian Wenham, (left) who as BBC2 controller nurtured Not The Nine O'Clock News, snooker and opera coverage, has died, it was disclosed yesterday. The former BBC TV director of programmes and BBC Radio managing director died suddenly in London on

Thursday night. He was 60. "He will be greatly missed." said BBC Broadcast chief executive Will Wyatt.

Wenham was BBC2's controller from 1978 to 1983 and had a distinguished broadcasting career at both ITN and BBC. He leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and two

#### Julie Ward arrests 'within weeks'

Detectives believe they are closing in on the killers of Julie Ward, whose mutilated body was found eight years ago in Kenya's Masai Mara game park. Julie's father, John Ward, 63, who has devoted himself to bringing the culprits to justice, said yesterday he expected arrests to be made in the next few weeks.

Mr Ward, a hotelier from Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, said the jigsaw was finally beginning to piece together and there was strong evidence that his 28-year-old daughter had been murdered by two

employees of a camping ground in the Masai Mara. The jigsaw is now looking much clearer than it ever has. We believe there were two people primarily responsible and a third who helped clear up the mess.

### 'Standard' faces contempt action

The High Court yesterday gave the go-ahead for contempt proceedings to be brought against the London Evening Standard over publication of a story which led to the trial of six alleged Whitemoor prison escapees being abandoned.

The Attorney-General, John Morris QC, in a case initiated by his predecessor Sir Nicholas Lyell, was granted leave to apply for court orders punishing Associated Newspapers, Standard editor Max Hastings and journalist Mark Honigsbaum.

The story, headlined "Alcatraz-on-Thames", was published on 22 January and included photographs of three of the trial defendants with captions referring to their IRA connections and the terrorist nature of the convictions for which they were serving time.

Next day, the Woolwich Crown Court trial was permanently "stayed" by Mr Justice Maurice Kay, who had ruled a week earlier that no reference to such matters should be made during the



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the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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### Pavarotti flies in to ring down Opera House curtain

uciano Pavarotti, the great Italian tenor, flew into Britain yesterday for his last appearance at the Royal Opera House before it closes for redevel-

The opera star and his young girlfriend, Nicoletta Mantovani, are paying a flying visit for tomorrow's selfout performance at Covent Garden, which will be his only solo recital in London this season.

The event will be his first recital at the Royal Opera House in eight years. His last appearance on stage was in Verdi's opera Un Ballo In Maschera in 1995. A Covent Garden spokeswoman said: "It is completely sold out and has been virtually since we opened

[booking], It is a rare treat." The world's most famous tenor will perform a programme which includes music by Beethoven, Scarlatti, Schubert and Bizet. There will be operatic arias from Puccini's Tosca and Donizetti's LEISir d'Amore – but no airing of what has become his signature tune. Nessun Dorma.

He performed the same programme at the Metro-politan Opera House in New York in January.

The recital is part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the reopening of the opera house after the Second World War and comes two months before it closes for the £214m redevelopment plan.

The theatre is scheduled to reopen in December 1999, which may well make this Pavarotti's last Covent Garden performance of the century. His debut there was as Rodolfo in La Bohème in 1964.

For his first recital, in 1976, he was accompanied on the piano by Laone Magiera, as he will be again tomorrow. Pavarotti arrived at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday funchtime with 27-year-old Miss Mantovani. She was the singer's secretary, but moved into his Italian home

two years ago when he left his wife of 36 years. She immediately put him on a strict diet to reduce his legendary bulk by several stones, and has been credited with huge influence over him, despite being younger than his three daughters.

Pavarotti had enjoyed previous dalliances, but his wife, Adua, had tolerated them. However, she wrote an angry open letter to an Italian newspaper through her lawyer, about the Mantovani affair. Louise Jury

#### Oldest mother has no regrets Tory spin-doctor

The world's oldest mother ve terday said she had no regrets, despite the fact she is in the centre of an international controversy over her "miracle child".

Mrs Arceli Keh, now 64, gave birth on 7 November, when she was 63, to her daughter, Cynthia. Speaking from her home in Highland, California, she defended her decision to have a child so late in life, saving: "I would do it all over again if the doctors would let me. My husband and I would love to have a second child.

"I intend to to be around for a long time. A number of people in my family have lived well into their nineties, so I've got very good genes. I plan on devoting every minute of my life to this little bundie of joy - and because I am retired I can do that, which some

working mothers cannot do." She and her 61-year-old husband Isagani, originally from the Phillipines, began trying to have a natural child when she was 47. soon after they married in 1980.



there was no chance of a child. So, lying about her age, she signed up for in vitro fertilisation t the University of California in 1993 - five years past the age set by doctors as an upper limit for the treatment, which cost £20,000 and succeeded after five attempts.

The following year, she was told

### stands down. New Labour, new spin doctor – for

the Tories. Charles Lewington, Smith Square's answer to Alastair Campbell, is one of the first casualties of the electoral meltdown of the party he was meant to help spin into power.

Mr Lewington, 38, the director of communications for the Conservatives, is in Spain today after handing in his resignation to party chairman Brian Mawhinney.

The former political editor of the Sunday Express joined Smith Square 18 months ago. Cheroot smoking Mr Lewington, known by various sobriquets of " Lord Snooty" and the "Westminster Lounge Lizard", is now considering a number of offers in the media, but said he would not be

making a decision for a few week Mr Lewington had argued for the sacking of Neil Hamilton and was surprised that John Major refused to call the Tatton association to remove him as its candidate.

#### HOME AFFAIRS

### Reoffending cut by wider use of community sentences

In a report published next week, the Penal Affairs Consortium. urges the new Government to place greater emphasis on the reduction of reoffending, arguing that certain types of community supervision have reduced the rate of reoffending by between the nd 30 per cent.

These programmes are said to include those which teach and 30 per cent.

offenders to restrain aggressive and impulsive behaviour, taking alcohol or drug problems, or provide skills training and employment. The consortium argues that "A rational strategy for reducing reoffending would involve developing plans to extend the most effective forms of community supervision to many more

offenders." It proposes a "national curriculum" of the most effective supervision programmes, to be made available to courts all over the country.

#### **HEALTH**

#### **We all scream after ice cream**

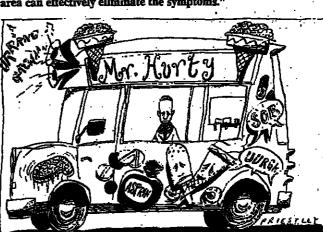
The most common cause of headaches is not stress, hangovers or migraine. It is ice cream, according to research published in the migrame. It is ice cream, according to research published in the British Medical Journal yesterday. A third of people have suffered "brain freeze" caused by cold food or drink, writes Professor Joseph Hulihan, of Temple University, Philadelphia.

The condition is characterised by a stabing or aching pain which begins a few seconds after eating ice cream and peaks in 30"

to 60 seconds. Experiments to induce the effect by applying crushed ice to the palate have shown that it cannot be reproduced in cold weather.

Research had indicated that ice cream headache was a referred pain. It bore a similarity to migraine in that both involved reaction to sensory stimuli.

Professor Hulihan wrote: "No treatment is usually required," and sufferers rarely seek medical attention. Since the posterior aspect of the palate is most likely to produce the referred pain of ice cream headache, avoiding contact of the cold food with this area can effectively eliminate the symptoms."



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The Land

Barrier V

#### CONSERVATION

### **Blueprint for saving rare species**

A blueprint for managing forests to boost the conservation of rare and endangered birds was published yesterday by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Forestry Commission. Already, much effort has gone into conserving several types of forest birds, such as the capercaillie, black grouse, nightjar and woodlark, and the plan is based on this and other research.

The paper focuses primarily on man-made, largely coniferous forests, where there are the most commercial opportunities for felling and replanting. Its advice is aimed at benefiting wildlife, with minimal effects on profits.

The RSPB's Scottish director, Stuart Housden, said birds which could benefit included the Scottish crossbill, found only in Highland pinewoods, the black grouse, which is suffering massive population decline, and the barn owl, hit by a shortage of nest sites.

### WHITEHALL

### **Records go electronic**

The Public Record Office at Kew entered the era of new technology yesterday when it unveiled its first electronically produced government documents - the Nolan Report on standards in public

Already, 95 per cent of government records originate electronically, the Treasury goes completely "electronic" this year, and the paper bottlenecks in Whitehall and the Record Office meant deadlines for a rolling programme of computerisation were brought forward to this side of the millennium.

At the moment, the PRO files between 96,000 and 100,000 pa files per year, equivalent to one-and-a-half miles of shelf space. Under an electronic system, a mile of records could be contained. in a single box of CD-Roms.



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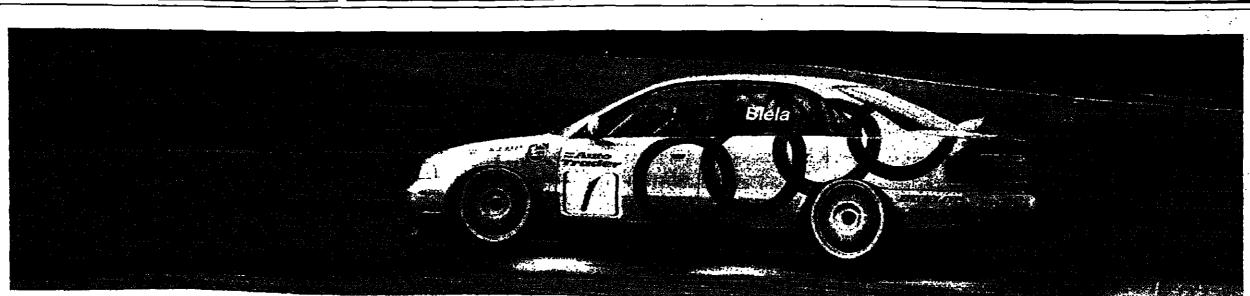
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Kim Sengupta

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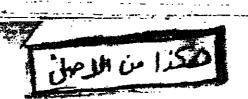
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Police commando raid ends short-lived rule of rag-tag Venetian 'liberation' army

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PENDEN

The state of the s

It was shortly after dawn yes terday morning when a lone male voice cut into regular radio programmes in Venice with a startling announcement.

"After 200 years, a regular unit of the Most Serene Venetian Army has tonight liberated St Mark's Square," the heavily accented voice said in a low monotone. Long live St Mark, long live the Serenissima!"

It was not a joke. Or not entirely. Something really quite spectacular had indeed taken place in this lagoon city of a thousand romantic fantasies.

Shortly after midnight, a band of eight men dressed in battle fatigues had commandeered a vaporetto on the Grand Canal, loaded a homemade armoured car on board and ordered the pilot to take them to the Piazza.

Once there, they climbed up to the top of the campanile, unfurled a Venetian flag and set up a pirate radio antenna alongside their sleeping bags and enough food to last them several days. Thus began an allnight adventure that yo-yoed tragicomically between terrorist drama and costume farce.

The men claimed to be sep-aratist guerrillas seeking to liberate Venice from the colonialist yoke of Rome, but were they serious? Were those real sub-machineguns they were brandishing or just toys? And what was all this nonsense about re-establishing the Venetian

Republic two centuries after the collapse of the glori-

ous maritime republic? The police took no chances. cordoned off St Mark's Square and embarked on a five-hour negotiation to try to persuade the men to give themselves up peacefully. In the end, they mounted an early-morning commando raid, scaling the campanile with a telescopic ladder and successfully arresting the men without a shot being fired.

It is too soon to say who these pranksters were, but their escapade was certainly wellpublicised ahead of time.

For weeks, separatists from the Veneto - angry about high taxes and the backwardness of the Italian south which they believe they are forced to subsidise - have been interrupting state radio and television broadcasts with propaganda about the "rotten and corrupt" Italian state and rallying all "indomitable fellow patriots of the Veneto" to rebel. The date they have been focusing on is this coming Monday, the bicentenary of the fall of the Venetian Republic and the day, according to the separatists, when the Veneto began its long servitude at the hands of outside forces.

They consider Italian unification, which was approved by the Venetians in an overwhelming popular vote in 1866, little different from preceding occupations under Napoleon and the Austrians.

Broken idyll: Canaletto's The Molo from the Bacino di San Marco Venice, 1747-50 (Photograph: San Diego Museum of Art/Bridgeman Art Library) Right: The oup's home

even for Umberto Bossi, leader

of Italy's northern separatists,

who has found his own consid-

erable talent for agitprop up-

staged over and over by the

This is no way to stage a rev

'more radical Venetians.

vehicle lies doned in St Mark's Square **Eberate the** 

Mr Bossi's Northern League is planning to declare an Independent State of Padania, with

ny in September. If he is not careful, though, the Venetian crazies may well olution." Mr Bossi tut-tutted declare their independence vesterday, his voice betraying from him first.

Venice as its capital, in an haif-clownish, half-serious ceremo-

Siege against the Serenissima selves and a camper van down the Grand Canal to St Mark's Square.

Serene Republic of Venice". 3. A team of 24 masked Carabinleri paramilitary police stormed the bell-tower and arrested the separatists

back on the political agenda in Italy. poretto" ferry shortly after midnight to take them, a six-wheeled ar-4. Police, who scaled part of the 99m moured vehicle they had built them-(325ft) tower found a sub-machinegun and a quantity of ammunition.

The protesters face charges including membership of an armed band, subversion, kidnapping and The eight-strong group raised a banner on the tower bearing the symbol of the Lion of St Mark and illegal possession of weapons. issued a statement describing them selves as soldiers of the "Most

Police linked them to a shadowy group that has interrupted television news bulletins in the north-east for two months, with pirate broadcasts warning of a "spectacular action" to mark Monday's 200th anniversary of the fall of the Venice Republic. whose protest has put secession

#### IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Five sections for the very best in news, features, sport, business, travel,

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page 2 today IT IS. ARE YOU?

#### Such rhetoric is too much just a hint of envy. Lost and found again; an old lady's independence



12 May 1797; The Venetian government votes itself out of office as Napoleon storms in. The people think that they are elting a revolution, but or tuo ment ellez moeloge strians who then begin a 59 year occupation of the

Daniela Marin, seizing on the problemary mood across Europe, leads a popular revolt against the Austrians. The popular revolt lasts sev-

defeats at both the hands of the French and the Prussians the French and the Prussians, the Austrians give up Venice which then becomes a part of the newly unified Italian state. 1979. The first not them separatist movements spring up in the Venice region, spreading gradually into Lombardy and Piedmont.

1996: The leader of the Northern League, Umberto Bossi, launches his "march on the Po" and makes Venice.

on the Po" and makes Venice the seat of his largely symbolic rebel government.



If you'd like to know more about Mr. Jack Daniel and his unique whiskey, write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA. WATCH OUT FOR THESE MEN. They've caught bigger fish. Faced meaner foes. Handled tougher situations than most.

They're Tennessee whiskeymen, trading stories in Jack Daniel's old office here at the distillery. That's Bull Waggoner on the right, going on about the trophy bass he caught last spring. (We're still trying to account for its existence.) Some tall tales will fill this room before everyone's through. But when these men talk of how faithful we are to Jack Daniel's whiskey-making ways, there's no exaggeration.

### Have we got news for you ... (but not in a brown envelope)

Media Correspondent

You could almost have felt sorry for Neil and Christine Hamilton as they were ripped to shreds on Have I Got News For You last night. But not quite.

There is something about Mr Hamilton's forced smile and air of indignant innocence that would probably stop you stepping in if he was getting a kicking from three unemployed coal miners, let alone being given a part so centle ribbing by en a not-so-gentle ribbing by three highly paid satirists. Mr Hamilton only agreed to

appear on the show at the last minute. The programme makers Hat Trick did just want his wife, who throughout the election campaign showed herself to be the talking half of their weird double act. But they both showed up as one guest on the show, perhaps to double the £750 appearance fee. You could tell exactly how

much of the show was going to be turned over to baiting the Hamiltons when it started with the show's host Angus Deayton wearing a white suit - as made famous by Martin Bell, Mr Hamilton's successful rival for the Tatton constituency. Mr Hamilton wore a red

bow-tie for the show, a sure sign that he is planning a comeback career as a media eccentric. It would only be fair - after all Martin Bell has his old job so Mr Hamilton could have his



Keeping up appearances: The Hamiltons on Have I Got News For You Photograph: PA

place for all of the show, even when the specialist publication that the show gets its missing headlines from was The Ritz hotel's in-house magazine - the hotel where Mr and Mrs Hamilton so famously stayed at the expense of its then owner

Mohamed Al-Fayed. It has to be said that Mr Hamilton did have one good joke and like all the others in the show it was directed against snap back, even when handed himself. When Mrs Hamilton was asked who should be the

next Tory leader she refused to be drawn. But ever-modest Mr Hamilton suggested himself: "I think I could successfully unite the party because they would all be against me."

The show's regulars, Paul Merton and Ian Hislop, and even the other guest Maureen Lipman, could not resist continuous digs at the couple but they resisted the temptation to a pair of stuffed brown envelopes at the end of the show.

It may be that the Tatton de-feat and the campaign itself – compete with soap stars, foreign correspondents, towering trans-vestites and David Soul - has nudged the Hamiltons past the point of caring about insults.

They are either now far more thick-skinned than when they used to keep libel lawyers on their BT Friends and Family list, or they have realised that fame will not last much longer and are making the most of it. In which case the joke was on us.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



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Mortgages

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# Doctors accused of falsifying records

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

A consultant obstetrician and a senior midwife were accused by a High Court judge yesterday of falsifying medical records and giving misleading evidence after the "disaster" birth of a boy who was left professed the disaster. was left profoundly disabled.

The pair claimed they had told the boy's mother. Francesca Brock-Hollinshead, to go straight

to hospital after she attended an antenatal clinic for a check comlaining of stomach pains, but she had refused. Mrs Brock-Hollinshead denied she was given this advice and returned

home while she was in labour. Her son Oscar, now aged six, was born at home several hours later in a "traumatic" breech delivery during which his head became stuck and he suffered brain damage due to asphyxia.

authority liable yesterday, said Oscar would need care for the rest of his life and is expected to award Mrs Brock-Hollinshead a sum in excess of £1m.

John Crowley QC, sitting as a deputy judge, said he preferred the evidence of the mother, and that notes made by the consultant and midwife about their advice were added after the home birth went wrong.

booked for the birth at Farnborough hospital, Kent and was seen by consultant obsietrician Dr Édgar Tatford at the Masons antenatal clinic on 19 March 1991. The judge said that he was "driven to the conclusion" that Dr Tatford, consultant for the Bromley group of hospitals in Kent, had added notes to his original after the

birth to give the impression that

Mrs Brock-Hollinshead was he had advised the mother to go straight to hospital. Mr Crowley said: "I appreci-

ate that this is a strong finding to make against someone of his status but having heard the witnesses and considered the relevant documents, that is my finding."

The judge said that two entries in the medical notes made by Sister Ruth Coull, that the mother was to be admitted to hospital and that she appeared

to be having contractions when leaving the clinic but had refused to go to hospital, had been

made at different times. He said: "As her cross-examination proceeded Sister Coull conceded that the entries she had made relating to events in the corridor were unfair to the mother. It then emerged that the entries had been made ... after the disaster of Oscar's birth had occurred."

now of Cranleigh, Surrey, was eventually seen by an obstetric team at her home when Oscar was delivered up to his neck and there was a delay of five to 10 minutes in freeing the head. The judge said that it was Mr Tatford himself who had first

used the word "disaster" to describe the circumstances of Os-He added: "I am satisfied that

Mrs Brock-Hollinshead, 33, be could and should have taken steps to discuss the matter properly with the mother and explain to her what had gone wrong. I find that the reason why he did not do this or indicate in any way to the hospital authorities that there was at least cause for further inquiry is that he had been at fault on the 19 March 1991 in not advising the mother to go straight to the labour ward.

### Refugee sent back home to his death

Patricia Wynn Davies

The Refugee Council called last night for a freeze on deportations of rejected asylum seekers back to Algeria and a review of all outstanding cases, after a former Algerian policeman was murdered by the authorities there on his return.

The 25-year-old man, who The Independent is not naming because of fears of reprisals against his family, had had his claim for refugee status in the UK refused and was forcibly deported in handcuffs on 27 April. Less than a fortnight later, and following two spells in detention, his body was delivered to his mother for burial.

He was one of a number of former police officers who have fled Algeria in fear for their lives or disgust at torture practised by Algerian security forces.

Mohammed Sekkoum, chairman of the Algerian Refugee Council in London, said he believed the man was arrested by the police and the security services on his arrival in Algiers so that he could be interrogated about his contacts with other Algerians who have fled to London, and that he met his

death through being tortured. The number of Algerians seeking asylum in Britain has risen from 25 in 1990 to more than 4,000 following the outbreak of civil war in 1992. There is a growing body of reports well as armed Islamic opposition factions, for atrocities against politicians, journalists, intellectuals and policemen.

Nick Hardwick, chief execulive of the Refugee Council, said: "It is a matter of great shame for his country that someone should be killed in Algeria because we failed to offer

sanctuary against persecution."
The case is not the first where returned Algerians have been tortured, "disappeared" or met their deaths. But the fate of the man stands in contrast to that of his brother, another former Algerian police officer, who was anted refugee status in Canada. Their father, also a policean, was kilied last year.

The man's asylum case was doomed when having been granted temporary admission, he changed his address without notifying the Home Office. That meant he never received notification of his appeal against an initial refusal of asylum. He was later arrested for breaching the terms of his temporary admission, and representations urging the Home Office to reconsider his case were rejected.

Sources said the UK authorities had furnished Algeria with details showing the returned deportee had been a police officer, making him a prime target for arrest.

A Home Office Spokeswoman said last night that they were aware of the case and were



Scare tactic: Jimi Hendrix among the figures chosen by teachers on the Isle of Wight when asked to make scarecrows in an Arts Council project blaming government forces, as making urgent enquiries into it. I to raise pupils' rural awareness. Project staff Becky Priest and Rachel Nightingale are putting the finishing touches

### Where good food costs more...

Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Customers at a Bournemouth Sainsbury's - slogan "Where Good Food Costs Less" - found their food cost them more than at neighbouring stores run by

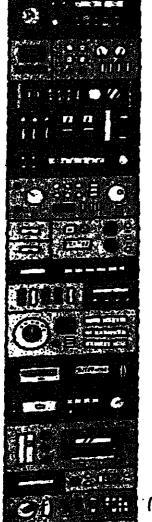
Prices on a range of products including coffee and laundry liquid went up by as much as 60p at the store in Hampshire Centre mali.

Yesterday a company repre-sentative visited Bournemouth to apologise to the shoppers, and return prices to their original level, as the issue was featured on Radio 4's consumer

programme You and Yours. One shopper, Marilyn Rigler had spotted two weeks ago that jars of Nescafé coffee had soared by 19p from £1.79. Checking the price against jars in another Sainsbury's three miles away in Boscombe, she was amazed to find that the rise applied only to her store.

The chain - which announced a 15 per cent slump in pre-tax profits in its annual results on Wednesday - said that the variations in price were part of market research which was "limited to a small number of stores and a specific time frame".

A spokeswoman for the National Consumer Council said: The message to consumers has got to be the traditional advice - stay alert and shop



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The M&G Windfall PEP

Seven children yesterday failed to make legal history and take their council to court over a broken promise to build a leisure centre

and swimming-pool.

A High Court judge ruled the seven, from Colliers Wood, southwest London, could not seek judicial review as their case was "bound to fail". Acting through their parents, the children, aged three to 14, argued that planners erred in law when they struck a shopping-development deal with Sainsbury's which dropped the leisure-centre project. The alternative amenities included a restaurant, bingo hall and fitness centre but not the pool they wanted.

The original deal between Merton Council and the supermarket firm in 1986 included the leisure centre as part of a Savacentre project at Colliers Wood.

Richard Gordon QC, for the children, accused the council of creating an unlawful "hotchpotch" involving planning rules and reg-

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Thwarted: Five of the Colliers Wood Seven - Kate Barker (left), Joanna Dauncey, Harry Barker, Tom Dauncey, Spike Godding Photograph:Reuters

# Blair lifts hopes of end to beef ban

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair is working on a strategy for lifting the European ban on British exports of beef, which could be the first glittering prize to be won from a closer relationship with Britain's

European partners.

The lifting of the beef ban was raised yesterday at the first meeting between the Prime Minister and the current holders of the European Union presidency, led by the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, amid clear signals that Britain will sign up to a deal on closer union at the Amsterdam summit.

Underlining the new era of greater cooperation with Europe, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said after their lunch at Downing Street he believed Britain would not be isolated at the Inter-Governmental Conference. "I now believe that it will be possible for us to reach an agreement at Amsterdam."

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Mr Blair is taking personal control of the beef strategy in the hope that the new mood of cooperation will produce dividends with the gradual lifting of the beef ban, which has cost Britain billions of pounds and thousands of jobs. One of his officials said: "He is totally seized of the importance of beef. He will be taking time to put to-

gether a real strategy on beef." Mr Cook emerged from the meeting at Number 10 con-firming that Britain will keep its border controls, in spite of a move at the Amsterdam summit on 16-17 June towards more open borders inside the EU with the completion of the

single market Britain's new readiness to sign the social chapter - in the face of continued criticism by candidates for the Tory party leadership - was warmly welcomed by Mr Kok. The Dutch leader said: 'Britain's decision to accept the social chapter, to be in favour of a strong employment paragraph in the treaty, is an enormous step forward."

The Foreign Secretary said the meeting with Mr Kok in the first week of the Labour government was "a sign of the way in which the new Labour govemment is being taken seriously in Europe and can do serious business with Europe". Mr Cook said: "We are al-

ready making substantial progress to getting our objectives. One of the reasons for that is that we have identified those issues where Britain needs to "The problem with the ster-ile and negative attitude of the "ridiculous ideological

previous government is that hatreds to begin more positive, they shouted no at everything constructive contacts.

really meant it."

Downing Street and senior Cabinet ministers were keen to avoid raising expectations of an early lifting of the beef ban, but the Government has inherited an advanced plan for the partial lifting of export ban on beef from certified herds and that will be pushed forward in agricul-

ture meetings later this month. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture minister, will start the process with a courtesy call to Franz Fichler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, on Monday, before preparing for an Agriculture Council of Minis-

ters meeting 20 May.
There was a widespread view

#### Clinton to call in at No 10

Tony Blair will take his first says as a major international statles man when the welcomes the US President, Bill Clinton, to London this month. London this month.

He was the first foreign leader, to congratulate Mr Blair withirr hours of his wictory.
His decision to pay an official wish at such notice is seen by Labour as a seal on a new dear of the "special relationship". The President will arrive on 27 or 28 May, Northern Ireland and international trade are expected to be the main toples of discussion.

expected to be the main topics of discussion.
The Democrat president and
the New Labour prime minister agree on a range of issues.
They have met before and
struck up a professional and
personal repport.
Mr. Clinton was not pleased
when the Conservatives sent
two apparatipites to Washington to help George Bushl
during the penultimate American election.
Although they hardly helped
the Republican causa, the Intervention langered the Clinton
camp:

camp: Labour spin-doctors visiter Democrats in the run-up to the last domestic elections, and the victorious campaigm, it is from the US experience. Senior Democratic Party officials are known to have visited although the liaison was not advertised by either side.

in Whitehall that Douglas Hogg, his predecessor, failed to make the breakthrough because of the lack of political cooperation in Europe. John Major and his government complained that the refusal to lift the beef ban had gone beyond the scientific reasons, but score and does need to deliver. Downing Street officials said the

### **Howard HQ** set up in itken home

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Howard's election team will move into the Westminster home of Jonathan Aitken, the former Treasury minister, over the weekend, to step up his campaign for the Conservative Party leadership. The Howard campaign will

he hased in Lord North Street. a few doors down from the house where, in 1995, BT engineers were spotted installing telephone lines for a possible bid for the leadership by Michael Portillo. Mr Aitken resigned as a min-

ister to fight allegations of sleaze, and lost his seat in the election. He has no vote, but is a close friend of the Howards. "It is very generous of him," said a campaign source.

Mr Howard and his wife, the

former model Sandra Paul, have a London house, in addition to the grace and favour flat in Belgravia, where Mr Howard struck the aborted deal over champagne with William Hague to act as his running mate.

Mr Hague, who is using the Victoria offices of Jonathan Sayeed, a re-elected Tory MP and businessman, yesterday posed for photographs in his

sulting the constituencies," said one of his team. They claim that 70 per cent of constituency chairmen like Mr Hague's youth and are backing him. Another contender. John Redwood, effectively asked fellow Euro-sceptic Bill Cash yes-

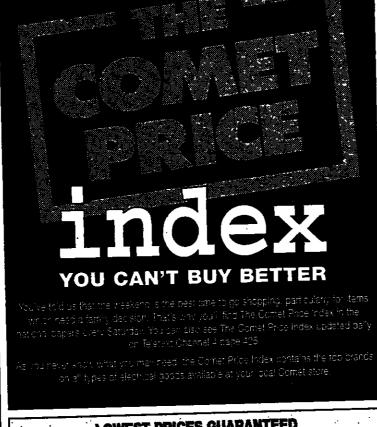
terday not to join the race. Mr Cash, MP for Stone, was said to be unhappy at Mr Redwood's declared willingness to have Europhile Kenneth Clarke in his Shadow Cabinet if he wins. All he would say publicly was: "We must have clarity on the issue of Europe in the leadership."

However, when Mr Redwood was asked at a Westminster news conference about the reports, he said: "I hope I can reassure Bill that I have been entirely clear about Europe none clearer.

"I have made crystal clear that I don't want to see the abolition of the pound."

Some Tory MPs are deeply unhappy with the candidates. One said he would have liked Iain Duncan Smith to run, but he is expected to act as Mr Red-

wood's campaign manager. The election of a chairman and officers of the 1922 Committee is on 21 May. They will constituency in Richmond, then organise the leadership Yorkshire. "He will be getting election for mid-June.



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# Spoilt for choice as Whitby's ship comes in

Residents of a sleepy Yorkshire seaside resort woke up this
morning to the bizarre sight of
Captain Cook's ship moored in
the harbour and the realisation
that their football team is playing at Wembley this afternoon.
Not much has happened in
Whitby since its former resident

Whitby since its former resident James Cook set sail from the tiny port in 1768 on his historic voyage to discover and chart New Zealand and Australia's east coast east coast.

But last night thousands of visitors packed the harbour for a vantage point as a £7m replica of his ship the Endeavour completed a seven-month journey from Australia

The town's mayor, John Smith, was so overcome yesterday that he was moved to describe the ship's arrival as "the event of the century". Whitby, he said, was "humming with excitement and enjoying being under the world spotlight".

The drama is almost too real for a town which is usually only in the spotlight as the backdrop for the popular television series Heartheat. Whitby also features in Bram Stoker's classic horror story Dracula.

But as the visitors flocked in, many Whitby folk headed out of town and down the M1. For supporters of Whitby Town FC,

Scenic setting for vampire's birth

Whitby provided the setting for Bram Stoker's Dracula, after the ship containing his coffin was wrecked off its coast. The vampine claimed one of its victims - Lucy - in the town's graveyand and the when he metapmorphosised into a dog, is meant to have bound up the 199 Church Stairs.

In 684, the Symod of Whitby settled the date of Easter, decided that the rites and authority of the Roman rather than Celtic Church should be adopted, and ruled on the issue of whether priests should shave their tonsures in the shape of a ring or a crescent.

native the birtiplace of the English Literature.

denote, one of the brothers at Whitby Abbey in the 7th cen-

today marked an even more historic occasion; the club's first ap-pearance in the final of the amateur FA Vase for 30 years.

"It's a remarkable coincidence both should be happen-ing at the same weekend, said

Mr Smith.
"In a way it's a pity they couldn't have been kept sepa rate as it's causing problems for some people. There are shop-keepers who planned to be at Wembiey to cheer on the team who are wondering if they ought to stay here because their shops will be busy with all the extra vis-itors coming to see Endeavour."

in Perth and set sail for the United Kingdom last October under the command of Captain Chris Blake. Among the crew is Whitby sea cadet Carl Johnson, who joined her in South Africa. Captain Cook was born in the village of Marton, Cleveland, in 1728 and his maritime career began with a Whitby firm of sea traders. He joined the Royal Navy in 1755 and developed his skills as a navigator. Thirteen years later, he was given the chance to journey to the Pacific to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the Sun and to search for a presumed south-

ern continent. The replica will be open to public viewing for eight days at Whitby's Endeavour Wharf.



Cook's tour: The replica of the Endeavour sailing past Staithes on its way to Whitby in North Yorkshire, yesterday

Photograph: Michael Scott

### Clinton to call in at No 10

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Double Dutch: Shirley Esseboom with Vaclav Kunes performing Deja Vu at the Peacock Theatre, London, as part of the Nederlands Dans Theater's programme opening tonight at Sadler's Wells. The piece has been choreographed by Hans Van Manen

LX 1.6 5 door

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# Police's new armour is no right for job

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Police body armour issued to more than 20,000 officers is "un-safe and unsuitable" and will not prevent fatal injuries from stab-bing, according to the findings of a Home Office study.

The unpublished research concludes that the Americanstyle protective vests used by the Metropolitan Police at a cost of £8m are the wrong type for Britain. Other police forces are also understood to be using

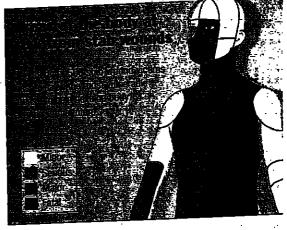
similar equipment.

The findings from the 18month study have caused a
row with Scotland Yard who argue that the "MetVest" is the hest available.

Forces throughout the country have been providing body armour to beat officers following a growing number of attacks. But a leading medical expert

LX 1.6 Estate

Si 1.6 5 door



says that the Metropolitan Po-lice equipment is ideal for stopping bullets, but cannot prevent a blade from inflicting a fatal injury. His studies show that of-ficers could be in danger of serious injury to heart, lungs, liv-

er, spleen and kidneys. He argues that only a tiny number of patrol officers are shot - in the eight years from 1988 to 1995 there were 90 officers shot while on duty, of whom seven died - compared with the relatively large numbers of knife attacks.

In the Metropolitan Police area during 1993 and 1994 two police officers were stabbed to death, 22 seriously injured and 41 received minor wounds. This compares with one fatal shooting and six serious gunshot

Tony Bleetman, an accident and emergency consultant at Heartlands hospital in Birm-ingham, said: "The biggest threat to patrol officers is from knives. There's a negligible ballistic threat - ordinary patrol po-lice officers therefore need to be protected from knives first and foremost, not guns. Under the Home Office stan-

dards for body armour the blade of a knife should penerate no more than five milimetres before being stopped and a bullet can push the vest back 25mm. With the Met Vests, a knife can penetrate 20mm and a bullet can push the vest back

Mr Bleetman examined whether it was safe to allow a knife to enter the body for

He concluded: "If it goes in this far there's a much, much higher risk to injury to heart, lungs, liver, spleen and kidneys. For knives this standard is unsafe, but with 5mm nothing will get damaged."

He added that the vests are

very effective at preventing range of sizes.

death from shooting Mr Bleetman said th were vests that meet all ifications but admitt were more cumberson land Yard argues that must be able to move the new equipment.

A Metropolitan spokesman said: The is the best equipment a We have tested it to very high and rigorous: based on our own det: analysis and we are co: will be effective aga vast majority of knife which our officers are

Mr Bleetman has amined 500 stabbings gow and found that ar. blind spots" where pa body are not fully prote believes they sho strengthened at the ba neck, the left side of and the left side of the eas where most fatal:

His study discovere 7.7 per cent of the ca: one was fatally wound a third of the time the life-threatening particularly in the face abdomen, and in abo cent of cases they minor wounds, typic wounds all over the t

The research was r ed by the Police Feder will be presented at i conference in Black

this month. Mr Bleetman has sidered the effect o who wear vests and chided that there is a: risk from inflammat breast tissue and "jo ple", caused by fricti But he has ruled or with cancer. He conc there needs to be be

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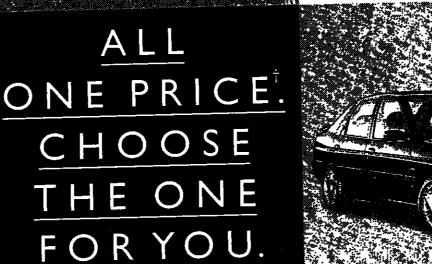
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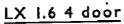
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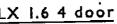
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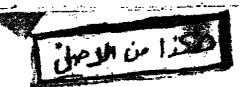


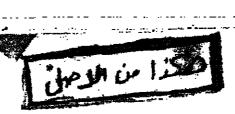






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World's priciest soup can fetches a cool £2.2m

**Edward Helmore** and Louise Jury

One of the pop artist Andy Warhol's legendary Campbell's soup can paintings has been sold in New York for \$3.5m (£2.2m).

The image, which along with his Coke bottles and brightly coloured Marilyn Monroes galvanised art in the 1960s, had been estimated to make not more than £1.5m,

The final price reflected the continuing international fascination with the shock-haired son of Carpatho-Russian immigrants who moved to the bright lights of New York and became a legend. He died in 1987 at the

The Big Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot), which dates from 1962, was one of his last group of hand-painted pictures before he switched to silk screen work.

The iconographic picture achieved the highest price for a Warhol soup can and the fourth highest price for the colourful, controversial and self-publicising artist who turned everything around him

highlight of the spring generation of artists. sales of contemporary Souheby's offered the past week.

Christopher Burge, spokesman for the auctioneers, Christie's, said it was a "healthy, strong, sensible market ... Buyers are getting good advice and there is no sense of specula-



Hot stuff: The Big Torn Campbell's Soup Can (Pepper Pot) painting by Andy Warhol (above left), who died in 1987

Despite the strength of the American economy and the careful selection of work on offer, auction house prices have not soared. There has, howev-The sale was the er, been keen bidding for a new

Sotheby's offered work by Prize winner Rachel Whiteread, who produced the concrete house in Bow, east London. Her Untitled (Double Amber Bed) quadrupled its estimate,

selling for just over £100,000 (\$167,000) to Anthony D'Offay, more than doubled its high esthe London art dealer who has timate of £211,000.

represented Whiteread since Among other artists reprepersuading her to leave her presented in the sales were Jasper vious dealer, Karsten Schubert. Johns and Roy Lichtenstein. Commenting on the newer Blang! a typical comic-book works, Tobias Meyer, Sotheby's Lichtenstein from 1962 showing new head of contemporary art a tank hit by a cannon blast went. Thie band went for £1m against in New York, said: "This will be for £1.7m, slightly less than the a previous record price for the the art that in 10 years people will wished they had bought

Matthew Barney's installation Transexualis (decline), which shows a walk-in freezer and a weightlifter's declining bench coated with petroleum jelly,

Willem de Kooning, who died in March, would fare. Both Christie's and Sotheby's offered paintings with estimates of up to £1.5m. But one Untitled painting from 1947

fetched only £1m while anoth-

er, entitled Amityville, failed to sell. However, Bakery Counter, a still-life of cakes, doughnuts and other confectionery by the San Francisco pop artist Wayne estimate. Particular interest artist of around £370,000.

offer in New York in the next few weeks. The biggest-draw sale will take place on Monday when a significant collection of Impressionist paintings from the estate of John and Francis Loeb is expected to raise at least

## City's muslims declare 'holy war' on blacks

Right-wing extremists are suspected of being behind a plot to set Muslims in Derby on a holy war against the local black community.

Leafiers circulated in multiracial areas of the city over a period of several weeks contained vicious shors on black people and called for them to be subjected to an Islamic jihad. The literature, which called

on Muslims to "break their bones in the name of Allah" led to spiralling racial tension in the Normanton area of the city. Police had to intervene in a standoff involving several hundred Afro-Caribbeans and Asians outside a pub last month.

Derby city council has been so shocked by the language in the leaflet and its effect on race relations that it is drawing up its own document to counteract it.

The council has set up a working party, which includes leading figures in the black and Asian communities, to restore the good relations which had

prosecute the authors of the leaflet under the Public Order Act, now believe that it is the work of non-Muslims attempting to stir up racial unrest.

Muslim leaders, who have denounced the document, said it contains basic errors in phrase-ology and language which would not have been made by a genuine fundamentalist

In particular, it wrongly uses the expression "superior", which even the most extreme Muslim groups only use as a reference to Allah. It also refers to black people as slaves, despite the fact that there are millions of black muslims in the world.

Inspector John Stamp, of Derby police, said: "We have been advised that there are religious and factual inaccuracies that would tend to suggest that it has not been written by someone who knows their facts about

the Muslim religion." He added: "We are taking the stance that it is a document which is being used to cause offence and lead people to take

Although leaders of all comnunities have worked hard to dispel people's fears, Inspector Stamp admitted that the leaflet had succeeded in provoking

increased tension. Lindsey Stewart, a Normanton pub landlord who witnessed the stand-off, said: "It has damaged my trade and frightened away many of my white cus-

tomers." When the leaflet appeared, suspicion bad fallen on the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a fundamentalist group which had been re-cruiting at the Derby College Wilmorton and was being mon-

itored by police special branch. The H-u-T, which is banned from many British university campuses, has been denounced for its anti-semitism and once called for the assassination of John Major.

Muslim youths have recent-clashed with Sikh gangs in Southall and Slough, to the west of London. But there is no history of tension between the

### College applications to go electronic

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Information technology is to revolutionise the annual university admissions paper-chase, sounding the death-knell for cumbersome prospectuses and application forms.

From this month, prospective students will no longer be forced to wade through mountains of brochures in search of the perfect course.

Instead, they will simply tap their key requirements and expected grades into their school suggestions matching their

In September, they will become the first generation of sixth-formers to be able to apply electronically to their cho-

traditional standard applica-

admissions will make the often stressful university applications process faster and less open to errors and fraud, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. UCAS, which processes

418,400 application forms annually, believes the speed of its on-screen version could also pave the way for a dual applications system, allowing candidates to opt to apply to university after receiving A-

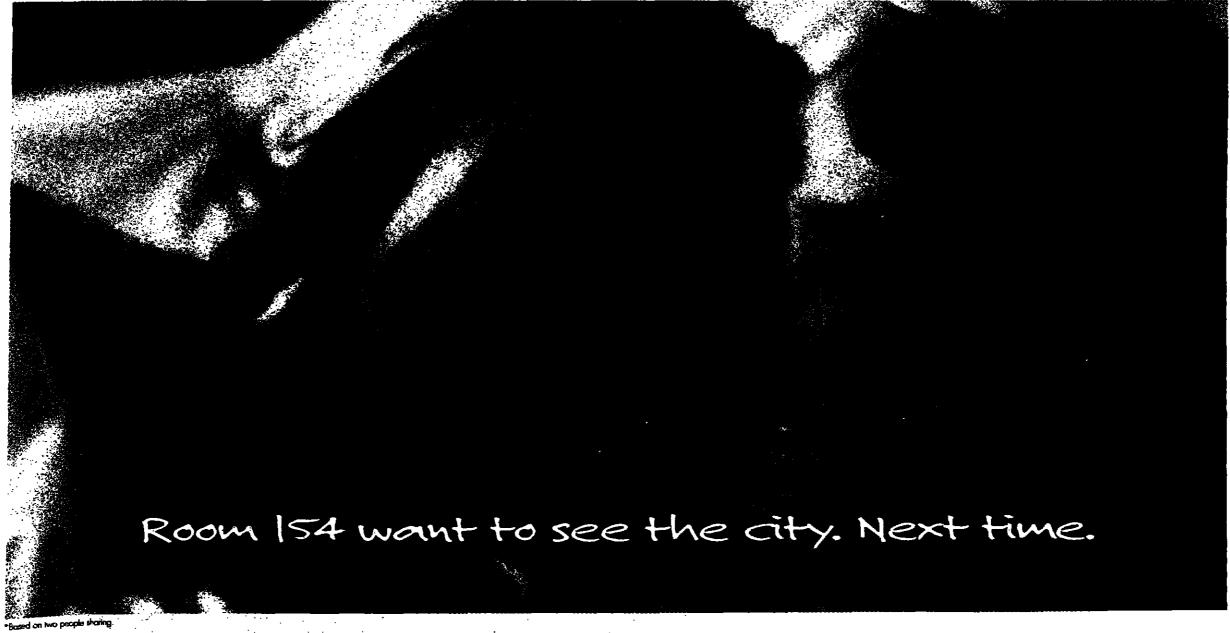
hand using predicted grades. The interactive Course Search service being launched next month on the Internet is designed to provide a short-cut to suitable courses. Students can sen university, swapping narrow down their choices by entering preferred institutions

tion forms for an on-screen version.

The advent of technology in or area of the country, mode of study, course level or entry qualifications. Once a course is selected, pupils can cross-refer at the touch of a button to the web site of the university concerned to discover an on-screen prospectus detailing everything from student numbers to accommodation costs.

The electronic application form, which is to be tested in 35 schools this year, will be modelled on the printed version, though it will be tailored to suit students taking A-levels or vo-cational GNVQs.

UCAS hopes to replace it with a new on-screen "profile of achievement" providing details not only of qualifications and predicted results but a full student carriculum vitae covering achievements in key skills and extra-curricular interests.



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Military markets: Try as they might to avoid it, firms selling weapons of war still face moral dilemma

# Arms traders find blind eye is best defence

Richard Lloyd Parry Singapore

In Singapore last week, just as during the Gulf War, it was clear that for all the bad press they have received over the years, mines, missiles and other bringers of death all have their own distinct personalities.

At the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (Imdex Asia '97) which ended vesterday, there were no evil Scuds or plucky little Patriots, but the glossy magazines and audio-visual displays mounted by the 300 defence manufacturers introduced a whole range of less famous personalities.

Among helicopters there was the Boeing Chinook ("a versatile warhorse that won't take no for an answer") and the Saab ASW-601 grenade launcher or. as its manufacturers nickname it, the "Submarine Slayer". Rather more mystifying to the layman was the gaily named Hellfire II Missile System.

The most radical attempt to humanise a piece of military equipment came from the man-ufacturers of an ingenious

artillery shell which explodes before impact to release a show-

er of deadly tungsten peliets. A piece of metal which had been subjected to this ordeal was displayed and, as I peered through the holes in the inchthick steel and wondered aloud at the effect this might have on a human target, an attendant approached. "When you write about this," he said, "don't

make it sound 100 ... illiberal. "Lethal ordnance with a liberal conscience" would make a fine advertising slogan, but there was a serious significance to Mr Tungsten's anxiety. De-spite the eclipse of mass peace movements and the huge economic benefits it brings to countries including Britain, moral questions still hover over the business of "defence sales".

For European exporters one of the most lucrative markets has been the Middle East, a political and diplomatic minefield, as the arms to Iraq scandal demonstrated. But exhibitors at Imdex, the biggest fair of its kind in the region, were in no doubt that the future of arms exports lie in the Far East.

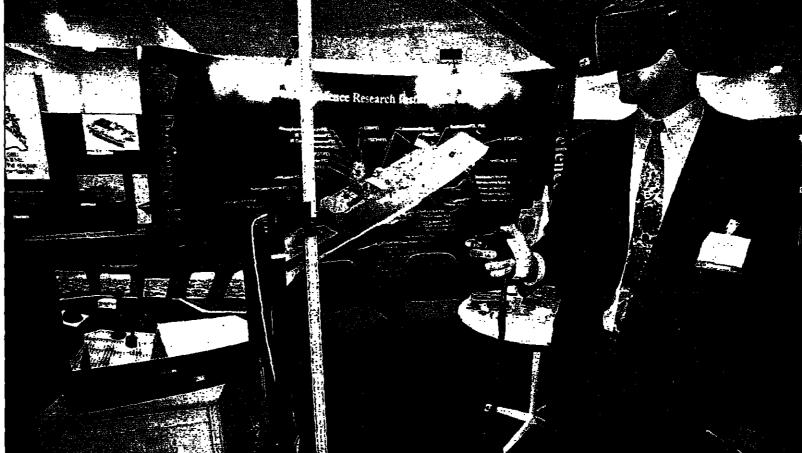
world in 20 or 25 years," says David Saw, editor of the Asian Military Review. "It has the money, and it has the need."

It also has unsavoury regimes whose potential use of foreignmanufactured arms is a source of fluctuating embarrassment to governments and their defence manufacturers.

The problem of to whom it is appropriate to sell arms is not simply a moral one. Countries have strategic interests to protect and dense bureaucratic procedures surround the export of defence equipment.

British companies need gov-ernment permission before sending even promotional ma-terial abroad, and approval for particular projects will pass through several ministries, including Defence, Trade and Industry, and the Foreign Office.

Certain countries, such as Burma, are the subject of a blanket ban. From Indonesia the Government has obtained a promise that British equipment will not be used to suppress civil-



Right on target: An employee of the Dutch science research organisation TNO displays a virtual reality system in Singapore

responsible attitude to export licences, and we do find that very restrictive." ian protests. "Do we feel the to rivals from less conscientious

British companies complain that the rules mean they lose out

pinch on export licenses?" asks

Rear-Admiral Sam Salt of the

MoD Defence Export Services

Organisation. "We have a very

countries. But most of those showing in Singapore were grateful the moral burden had been lifted from their shoulders. "It's not a decision we make." says Christopher Loney of GKN Westland, "and it's not one we are capable of making. In deciding who we sell to, we

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corporate level there aren't really any moral judgements.

But companies are keen avoid the taint of association with questionable regimes. With the demise of the Soviet bogey, liberal concern has centred on lesser regimes whose misdeeds might once have been overlooked. According to Admiral Salt, "the lobby groups are get-ting more vociferous".

This was demonstrated last summer when a group of peace campaigners were acquitted by a jury in Liverpool despite admitting they vandalised British Aerospace Hawk fighters bound for Indonesia; uncorroborated reports say Hawks have been used against independence fighters in the occupied territory of East Timor.

The rumour is that the new Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. intends to clamp down on arms trade with Indonesia.

The 82 British companies exhibiting in Singapore last week were keen to establish the liberal credentials of their hardware. "We're just not in the mainstream of suppression instruments", one helicopter manufacturer protested.

Britain shoots for big stakes

Britain is the world's second-largest arms exporter after the US and ahead of Flussia, which suffered from the break-up of the Soviet Union and difficulties providing after-sales service. Britain captured a quarter of the world market last a quarter or the world market last year, up from 16 per cent in 1994 and 19 per cent in 1995 - and the arms companies want it to stay that way, in no other export sector is Britain achieving anything like this proportion of the world market. proportion of the world market.

Arms exports earn British (25bn a year – between a third and a half of the total output of the British defence industry, which employs 360,000 people.

Besides financial earnings, military, equipment coes hand-line.

itary equipment goes hand-in-hand with support, training teams and advisers, which help maintain and advisors, which rep trianidation international influence.

The responsible transfer of defence equipment is consistent with Article 51 of the UN Charter, which

recognises the inherent right of states to self-defence. The new govstates to self-orience. The new government has said it will scrutinise tuture exports closely to prevent sales to repressive regimes but is not opposed to "responsible" exports. Indonesia — where it is alleged British aircraft have been used against people in East Times and when prevent the proper in the said against people in East Times and when prevent and temporary temporary. or and where not commol equipment has been used for repression - was

been denied. All applications to ex port defence equipment are con-sidered on a case-by-case basis. The final decision is with the Department of Trade and Industry which seeks advice from the Mir istry of Defence and Foreign Office. Also involved is the DTI's Export Credits Guarantee Department. East Asia is the world's third largest arms-importing region which receives 12 per cent of the

world's arms after the Middle East, the targest, and Western Europe. Britain has strong ties with countries in the first two areas as part of its colonial legacy, and both are lucrative markets because of oil revenue and the expension of the enues and the expansion of the tiger economies of East Asta. The UK has 20 "priority markets", fore cast to provide more than 80 pe cent of future British defence equipment orders. The Defence Export Services Ch

ganisation was set up in 1966 to oversee a coherent strategy for structive compe British companies by selective supporting only one company cases where British chances beating foreign competition would



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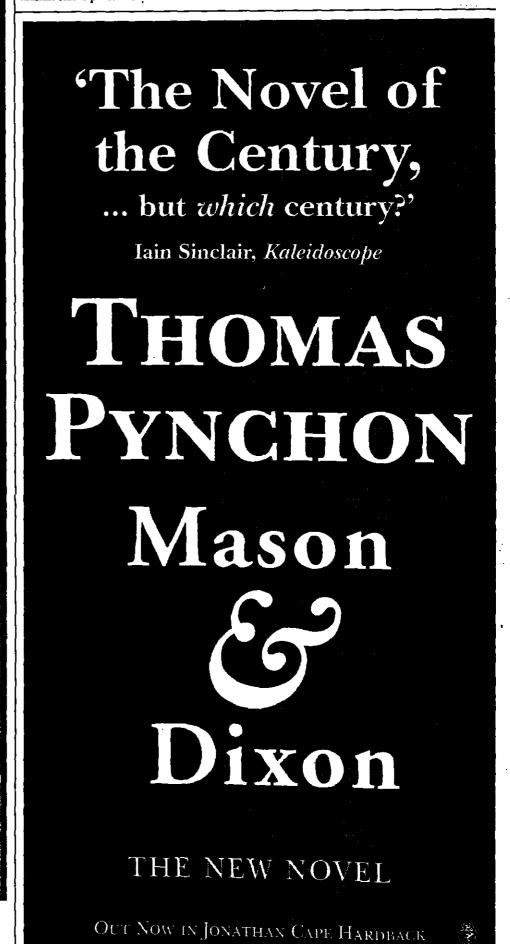
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## Players shift ground in Zaire endgame

Ron Kampeas Associated Press

al dilemma

Libreville, Gabon (AP) – Zairi-an President Mobutu Sese Seko remained in Gabon yesterday, fuelling speculation that he will choose exile rather than fly home as promised.

The ailing dictator, dying of cancer and losing a sevenmonth civil war, has agreed to long-delayed elections and has acknowledged he is too ill to be a candidate.

Despite assurances by his aides that Mr Mobutu would return to Kinshasa yesterday, diplomatic sources said he would remain in neighbouring Gabon for another night.

South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki was ex-pected in Libreville last night for talks with the President Mr Mbeki earlier in the day met rebel leader Laurent Kabila in the rebel-held southern city of Lubumbashi. Mr Mbeki said Mr Kabila had agreed to meet African naval vessel for a sec-

ond round of peace talks. On Thursday, Mr Mobutu met five other African leaders in Gabon and emerged with a document in which he called on on the Alliance to use their his military to prepare the coun-

is suffering from prostate cancer, was too ill to stand for the vote himself. The statement made no mention of Mr Mobutu resigning or giving power to a transitional authority that would include Mr Kabila, as the rebel chief has demanded.

Since promising a transition to democracy in 1990, Mr Mobutu has repeatedly post-poned the country's first multiparty elections. But with mounting international pressure and the rebels closing in on the capital, he has in recent

weeks repeated his promise. In Kinshasa, pressure was increasing on Mr Mobutu to cede power. For the first time, political parties within the parliament announced their support for Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

A communiqué released in the capital said peaceful demands for democratic change President Mobutu next had failed to produce results, or Wednesday on board a South bring elections, and expressed support for armed struggle to put the country on the path toward free and fair elections.

We proclaim our support for the Alliance's platform and call weapons in a manner that will

The pledge, signed by all six democracy", the communique leaders, said Mr Mobutu, who read. The parties signing it read. The parties signing the communiqué, such as the National Federation of Christian Democrats and the Zairian Association of former National Police Officers and Agents, do not have much power in the transitional parliament. But it is the first time political parties have publicly supported Mr Kabila's use of arms.

Rebel foreign minister Biz-ima Karaha said in Lubumbashi yesterday that Mr Kabila was only going to meet President Mobutu to secure his resignation. He said the rebels would continue their military offensive on the capital until the 66year-old dictator hands over power over to Mr Kabila.



### US pretends it has a sound grip on the diplomacy

Mary Dejevsky

A week of shuttle diplomacy in and around Zaire by the US special envoy, Bill Richardson, ended yesterday with little to show for it beyond a tentative "wait and see" and a gracious handing back of the problem to South Africa's leader Nelson Mandela. Mr Richardson, US ambassador to the United Nations, arrived in Washington via Paris on Thursday night, and was briefing US officials yes-

The ups and downs of Mr Richardson's African voyage seem to have convinced Washington there is a real risk of a bloody battle for Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, and that it would be unwise to rely on the rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, for a peaceful transfer of power, or for any subsequent period of stability based on democratic and free-market principles.

Over the past few days, US officials have broken an uneasy silence about Mr Kabila to give



Richardson: Not much to show for his African odyssey

a decidedly ambivalent, if not negative, assessment. Reference is made to his Marxist past, inexperience of government and his unreliability.

Some of this may stem from the rebel leader's decision not to turn up on the first day of talks with President Mobum last week, after extravagant efforts had been made to transfer an ill and reluctant Mr Mobula to the ship for the talks venue.

Mr Kabila's non-appearance was all the worse for the US because Mr Richardson had helped to broker the meeting and presented it as a breakthrough. Whatever the reason, recent American comments seem to mark a cooling in Washington's appraisal of Mr - Kabila, and of Zaire's chances of a peaceful transfer to democ. France. While the end of or a peacern his leadership. The President Mebuth's rule spells State Department spokesman. The end of France's dominant

show responsibility.

reputation," said Mr Burns. a responsible person who can lead the government. In anticipation of that, he needs to think about ways to preserve life."

This is a far cry from the US mood when Mr Richardson set out for Zaire. Then, State Department-spun news broadcasts said the envoy was setting out to "ease" the conflict in Zaire. Now US ambitions are more modest. Officials set out a list of priorities for US diplomacy. They were to prevent bloodshed in Kinshasa in the event of a rebel takeover, to ensure the smooth repatriation of refugees to Rwanda, and to see human rights were respected.

The only refinement to this list is the hope that a peaceful transfer of power can be engineered by means of a "broad, inclusive transitional government" that would lead to democratic elections. Less than two months ago, Washington had confidently recommended elections before the rebel forces reached Kinshasa.

US officials are sensitive about suggestions that Washington was slow, accidentally or on purpose, to react to events in Zaire, or that it barged in on

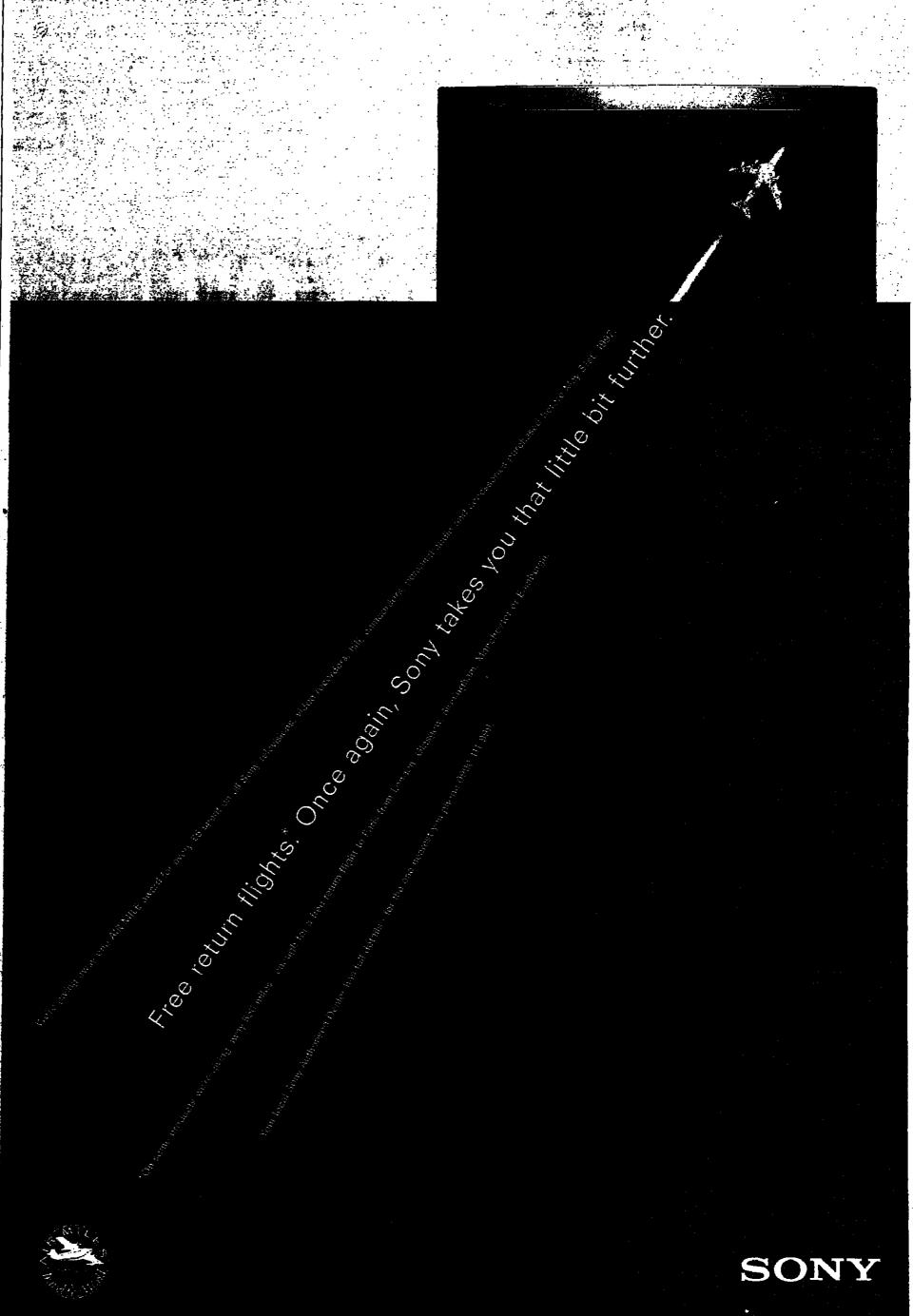
a peace-making show that be-longed to Mr Mandela.

They deny Washington stood idly by, saying it initiated direct contacts with the reflection an early stage. One possible chan-nel, improbable though it sounds, may have been the television evangelist, Pat Robertson, who made a mm-

Robertson, who made a number of trips to rebel-held areas in private planes, ostensibly to see about his mineral interests.

Another unofficial covoy, confirmed by diplomatic sources, was President Bill Cinton's wife, 'Hillary, who was charged with conveying the message that the US would be helpful where the food be when she message that the US would be when she message that the US would be helpful where the food on her African confidence in Washington, too, and in reports of friction with the work of the French ambassador to Zaire was politically not invited to the Mobate, Kapita talks and diplomatic sources in Washington predict difficulties with ington predict difficulties with Paris if the "broad, inclusive transitional government" favoured by the US excludes all Mobutu associates.

There is consolation for State Department significant of the Nicholas Burns, even went on role in Central Africa, the Nicholas Burns, even went of t "Mr. Kabila understands it premating to talk of the US what's at stake for him is his taking over that position. it premating to talk of the US



# May poll may be a pont too far for canny Jacques

### $\overline{ ext{PARIS}}$ DAY $\overline{ ext{S}}$

The workmen next door to the office have stopped their ceaseless drilling. The children rarely seem to go to school. Black, the peripatetic school rabbit, has moved in with us for a five-day weekend. There is a luxurious choice of parking places in the

The newspaper kiosk on the corner is closed. So, tragically, is the patisserie next door. It is, in short, Paris in the month of

August is the laziest month in France; but May is the oddest. The month is punctured by official 24-hour holidays - May Day, Ascension Day, Pente-

It is further cluttered by ponts, which are like the Pont d'Avignon, bridges to nowhere: official and unofficial extra days of holiday, which join up the real holidays with the weekends.

Thus this week there were only two days of school. Thursday was a religious holiday (Ascension Day). Friday was a pont. Wednesday was thrown in for good measure.

Last week with May Day falling on Thursday, Friday became a pont and there were three days of school. Next week is normal. The following week, with Pentecost on the Tuesday and a pont on the Monday, school is down to three days again. Charlie cannot believe his luck: three half-term bolidays in the same month.

The same pattern is repeated throughout the civil service (which invented ponts) and much of business and industry. especially in the capital. The provinces appear to work a little harder. The ponts, it is maintained, regularise what would otherwise be a chaotic situation. Hundreds of thousands of people would take the bridging

The result is that much of the country spends the month in a kind of twilight between work and leisure; barely recovered from one long weekend of traffic jams and relatives before it is time to dive into another. May is, notoriously, a thankless time to conduct business in France. If your business is with the administration, and anything out of the routine, you might as well forget it until June.

It so happens, however, that this particular month of May, the French nation is trying to conduct an important piece of husiness with itself.

In the parliamentary elec-tions on 25 May and 1 June, it must decide whether to continue with one of the least popular governments since polling began: or turn to the left. (Anything familiar there?)

It so happens that most of the campaign falls in the talk-to-melater month of May, one of the worst possible times to call an election. Or rather: it does not



of faith: Chirac's ploy of holding the election in France's oddest month could backfire on the ruling coalition

President Jacques Chirac, it is widely believed, picked those dates deliberately. The initial plan was to have the statutory two rounds of polling on 1 June and 8 June. The President chose to have the heart of the campaign carved up by long weekends, which would make it difficult for the opposition par-

or consistently attract the attention of the French people. The President is a calculating man but he has a history of electoral miscalculations. In one sense, the campaign is going ex-

per cent of the electorate had little or no interest in the election. Just down our street, there is a primary school which will be a polling station. It has been fenced around by vast steel actly as he expected: nowhere. temporary noticeboards to dis-All around the country, candicourage candidates from flydates report that their meetings posting. At this stage the boards are poorly attended; volunteers would normally be a colourful hard to come by. One opinion

jumble of earnest faces and vacpoll last week reported that 51 uous slogans ("Let's change the future"; "A shared leap forward"). At the last count, there were two posters, one severely

Apathy and lethargy, Mr

Chirac calculated, would be agents of the government. They would freeze the opinion-poll lead of the centre-right and ben-

efit incumbent members of the National Assembly, four-fifths of whom are members of the governing coalition.

But three weeks into the election, opinion polls are drifting towards the left. It is the government's campaign which seems most becalmed. A nervousness, approaching panic, is haunting the centre-right. Mr

Chirac, who was supposed to be above the fray this time, joined in the campaign this week, earlier than expected. It was as if a football manager had run on to the pitch in his sheepskin coat and tried to head in a corner.

The time of year is not the only explanation for the lifelessness of the campaign. The French remain in a morose and pessimistic mood. The Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, is a poor campaigner, and thor-oughly disliked. The Socialist leader, Lionel Jospin, is a good campaigner, with a dated and unconvincing programme.

The bridges of May are taking their toll, however. The President called the election, nine months before he needed to, because he said the country needed a new elan . As one semi-dissident, senior figure in Mr Chirac's camp said this week: "The problem is that to have élan, to take a leap forward, you need a run-up. For a run-up you need a clear runway. Every time we take a run, we fall

over all these ponts." Next week, a full week, without holidays, will be crucial. Afterwards, the nation will plunge into Pentecost, which may a be a pont too far. As Le Monde pointed out, this last long weekend ends, for many, on 21 May, four days before the first round. Four days to overcome apathy and boredom. The President hoped a stop-start campaign would lock in his side's advantage; he may have turned the election into a lottery.

John Lichfield

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## Cook's tour stirs Italian anxieties

Imre Karacs

Just over a week in power and the new British government has already made an enemy in Europe. No. for once London's emissary, Robin Cook, got on splendidly with the French and the Germans. This time, Italy is the offended party, driven into a sulk by the Continent's self-

appointed rulers. Rome is miffed by the Foreign Secretary's suggestion that Britain was ready to play a leading role in Europe, becoming one of the points in a "triangle" that would supersede the Franco-German "axis".

"Perhaps Minister Cook doesn't yet fully understand the rules of the European Union, where fortunately, there are no leading countries and no countries are led," an Italian official was quoted as saying. He then undermined his argument by declaring: "There are four major countries, and all of them are in a position of absolute parity." Guess which is the fourth country.

### 6 There are four major countries, and they all are in perfect parity 9

Italy is entitled to its opinion. but the vehemence of its reaction merely underlines that London's pretensions are not ω be dismissed lightly. However loud the second division may howl, Britain is truly back in the heart of Europe, ready to occupy the chair at the top table left vacant by the previous gov-

As illustrated by this week's tripartite statement on land mines, that is political reality. All that remains is to formalise the new relationship, preferably without provoking more Italianstyle outbursts.

In the wake of Mr Cook's triumphant visit. Bonn has already started moving the goal posts. Werner Hoyer, the European Affairs Minister who used to be a reliable source of Anglophobic comment, led the way into the geometry lesson: "The concept of the Bonn-Paris axis mentor, will have to come out. was already somewhat dangerous, because the other [countries] could easily feel excluded," Mr Hoyer told German radio the day after the Foreign Secretary's departure. "We must now be careful not to snub don't tell the Italians.

the others by creating a London-Paris-Bonn triangle. "However, it is naturally a good thing that the silent alliance of the past between Britain and Germany should, once again, become somewhat louder and more visible. And if we bring that into harmony with Paris, that can only

benefit the European Union and our co-operation in Nato." It is interesting to note that, rather than slotting London into the existing relationship, Mr Hoyer appears to be looking to accommodate Paris on the revived London-Bonn axis. Though German officials would not put it so bluntly in public, Bonn is growing exasperated with its French ally, and believes it will have more in common

with a Blair government. "The major fault line in Europe lies not between Britain and Germany but between Germany and France," a senior German government advisor told The Independent yesterday. Bonn sees itself as a champion of free trade, allied with Britain on important issues, such as the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the single market and Nato's role.

On economic issues, France adheres to rigid dirigiste policies which Germany finds outdated. and in the security domain Paris still refuses to play a team role in Nato. "If these tensions were not resolved, the whole community could come to a standstill," the official warns. The Germans point out that

the "triangle" has already been working well in Bosnia, where, after initial disagreements, the three countries took charge of the European peace-keeping effort. In defence and the development of a European arms industry. Britain is the leading force in the EU and is Germany's closest ally.

There are, of course, big areas of disagreement between London and Bonn, and be-tween London and Paris. "We agree with Germans about policy and with the French about European institutions," says a British official.

Balancing these differences in a three-cornered relationship will make European affairs even more complex than they are today, and there are bound to be be a few surprises along the way. The closet Euro-sceptics from Scandinavia, no longer able to hide behind their British

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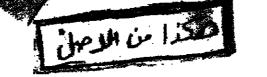
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### Pope faces mission impossible in Lebanon's blood-soaked land

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah would like the Pope to call for the liberation of Jerusalem from Zionist hands." Retired General Antoine Lahd, Israel's proxy militia leader in southern Lebanon, has told the Pontiff to make it clear that Lebanon is far from being the "pretty picture" painted by John Paul II, and is governed by a handful of

tyrants imposed by Syria".
Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, has announced that the Pope's functionaries in Rome are right-wing supporters of a Maronite Catholic coup in Lebanon.

Sheikh Said Shuahan, the radical Sunni Muslim priest in Tripoli, has denounced attempts to turn the Pope into

Poor old Pope, Just after midday today the sick old man of the Vatican is due to touch down at Beirut airport to visit the land where trust between faiths exploded into 16 years of

Christian-Muslim savagery. And there were dark shadows from the nation's past, right on cue, demanding that the elder-ly Pole expel the Israelis from Islam's third holiest city, drive the Syrians from Lebanon and denounce his own Church for its supposed, if unprovable,



support for a right-wing militia

whose leader has received three commuted death sentences for mayhem and murder untold. God this, God that, and God

'Good God', said God. Twe spend the next two days in 200,000-strong Masses and John Squire's First World meetings with government lead-War sympathy for the Almighty applies all too well to the 77ers and Muslim clerics.

Yet, if he is to satisfy the year old prelate, who must Lebanese, John Paul II must produce miracles rivalling those which were performed in southern Lebanon by the man whose Vicar he believes himself to be. Christ taught in Tyre and

Sidon and turned water into wine at Cana, though Qana is now more closely associated with blood. But the Pope needs to choose his words carefully. He will, they say, support Lebanon's multi-confessional state, a nation based on mutual respect and shared cultures.

Well, we shall see. According to the Vatican, the Pope arrives to "to heal the wounds that can reopen, to move Lebanon towards what it was before, a symbol of religious cohabitation." This is pushing it a bit. Before the war, a Maronite Catholic minority dominated the Frenchcreated state. That very imbalance was one cause of the war.

But the Lebanese - generous to a fault to every visitor - appear to welcome the world's

most famous Slav, Muslim and Christian alike ready to sit before their television sets throughout the weekend as a dying man tries to reunite a land which lost 150,000 of its sons and daughters in civil war.

Will the Great Man be given any touristic guidance when he passes the sites of the country's greatest bloodbaths? Outside the airport be must pass the scalded concrete ruins of the US Marine base in which 241 Americans were killed by a Muslim suicide bomber in 1983.

A little further down the road, he will drive close to the mass grave of hundreds of Palestinians killed by his Lebanese co-religionists who were sent into the camps by Israel in 1982. In the mountains to his right, the Druze, led by W Jumblatt Esq, cut the throats of many a Christian during the 1983 mountain war.

The Pope may call for an end to human rights abuses, a coded objection to Syria's military presence in Lebanon, but his message will have to be truly pastoral to pass muster before the ranks of ex-militiamen.

### First US post-war envoy arrives in Vietnam

The first US ambassador to post-war Vietnam arrived in Hanoi, proclaiming a new era between the former foes and a chance to bury their history of conflict and suspicion. "Today we exchange ambassadors, marking the full normalisation of diplomatic relations between our two countries, former Vietnam War fighter pilot and prisoner of war Douglas "Pete" Peterson said. Reuters - Hano

#### Nigerian activists' court plea

Lawyers for Nigerian dissidents charged with treason over recent bomb blasts asked a court to strike out the case. The 12 dissidents, including the exiled Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, face the death penalty if convicted. Gani Pawehinmi, leading other lawyers, told the magistrate her court was incompetent to hear such a serious charge.

#### Chemicals blast kills three

Fumes were still drifting from an American chemicals plant hours after heat from a smouldering bag of pesticide caused an explosion that killed three firefighters. The blast blew out a wall that crushed the firemen, who had been sent to the plant to assess the danger of the smoking bag.

AP - West Helena, Arkansas

### Pilot's bid to save passengers

The pilot of a jet that crashed on landing expected trouble and made passengers sit in the middle of the plane as he approached the airport; 33 passengers and two crew died in the disaster in the south Chinese city of Shenzhen. The plane broke up and caught fire while landing, reports said; 35 people survived.

AP - Shenzhen

#### Le Pen twitters on

The French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, comparing immigrants to birds, said his policy was not to expel them but "allow them to leave. When you have a cherry tree, you will see swarms of starlings arrive just when the cherries are ripe and you are about to pick it," he told Radio France Inter. "You can make all the noise you want; they won't leave until all the cherries are gone.

#### Reuters - Paris

### Albania breakthrough claimed

The European envoy Franz Vranitzky claimed a breakthrough in plans to hold early elections in Albania, saying the 10 main parties had signed a political contract to ensure the vote went ahead.

#### Israeli-Greek war games

Greece and Israel will hold military exercises in the Aegean next month, their first since they signed a defence agreement two years ago. The 10-day exercises will take place near Rhodes, off the Turkish coast.

AP - Athe-AP - Athens

#### Fiddler told the score

A violinist who smuggled 18th-century violins was sentenced to perform at naturalisation ceremonies welcoming new US citizens. In addition to a \$10,000 fine (£6,250) and 250 hours' community service, Bernard Zeller was sentenced to two years' probation. Performances at naturalisation ceremonies will be considered part of the community-service portion of his sentence. AP - New York

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### Challenge to Patten team over corruption cover-up

**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

Hong Kong legislators are heading for an unprecedented confrontation with Governor Chris Patten's administration which may end in contempt proceedings being initiated against the Chief Secretary, Anson Chan.

The committee investigate ing the sudden departure last year of the director of immigration, Lawrence Leung, has een asking Mrs Chan to let them see a report on Mr Leung complied by the colony's pow-erful Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Mrs Chan has refused to do so on grounds of public interest. Yesterday she was asked for the last time whether she would change her mind. Mrs Chan replied she had "nothing to

add" to previous statements. The committee chairman, Ip Kowk-him, said he could not accept the public interest case ad-vanced by Mrs Chan and was supported by other legislators. He said there were two alternatives facing the committee; they could invoke their powers to ask the Attorney General to initiate contempt proceedings against Mrs Chan, or would criticise her refusal to furnish information in their report.

The committee had offered to accept an edited version of the report to exclude material which might compromise the ICAC operations. However, this approach was also rebuffed. The saga of the investigation

into Mr Leung's departure has been marked by government prevarication and what it now admits was telling a "narrow interpretation of the truth" in claiming the former director resigned from his post for 'personal reasons".

It has since been revealed that Mr Leung was involved in mauthorised business dealings and suspicion still remains that he may have been involved in other improper activities with political implications.

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And yet. There is always an "and yet" in Lebanon. For the

Pope's visit marks another stage

in Lebanon's revival and begs

an important question. If the

Pope can come to Lebanon, why

do the Americans still ban their citizens from visiting the coun-

try? If he can come to a nation

in which the Hizbollah once de-

manded an Islamic republic,

what does the world have to fear

tween appointments only

aboard the UN's Italian-crewed

Huey helicopters. Lebanon's

own army Hueys are now

reckoned so dangerous that

the UN refuses to service them.

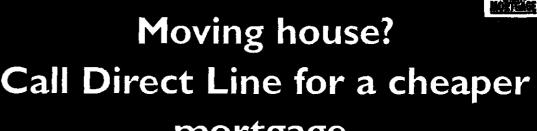
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### The currency question is not spent

but yesterday was Europe Day, celebrating the anniversary of the historic speech in 1950 in which the French statesman Robert Schuman proposed an integrated European coal and steel community. The French, ever enamoured of the stylish gesture, marked the occasion with much trumpeting of the brave new euro, with blue and gold Europe flags fes-tooning Paris buses and even free Eurodrinks at a generous bar in Chambery. Instinctively more pragmatic, Britain took a less spectacular approach, as Mr Blair held talks at Downing Street with the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, the most likely broker of a deal between Britain and its partners at the forthcoming Amsterdam summit. But the cause for rejoicing is no less. Labour's victory has brought us in from the European cold, and for the first time in ages eyes across the Channel look to this country with fascination, hope and - dare one say it - admiration. As the rush of local claimants to the Blair mantle in France, Germany and beyond shows, the election result has the potential to revitalise and reshape the European left.

Unlike Bill Clinton, who occupies a comparable place in the American political spectrum, but is shackled by

Republican control of Congress, the Prime Minister's huge majority gives him a rare chance to forge a new brand of European centre-left politics. The first impact could be felt as soon as 25 May, in France, where President Chirac's gamble in calling early elections looks more perilous by the day. But the consequences might be even more momentous in 1998 in Germany, where Labour's success offers the Social Democrats something that has eluded them for 16 years - a formula for ending the rule of Helmut Kohl.

A fresh spring in the step is no less visible at the Foreign Office, long constrained to defend barren Tory policies which ran against every instinct of its soul, quite apart from rendering all but irrelevant the diplomat's cherished art of deal-making. 'Nothing succeeds like political success in changing the dynamics of a negotiation," declared one jubilant official the other day as he surveyed the first 100 hours of Robin Cook's Foreign Secretaryship: "Domestic strength does mean foreign policy strength." We shall see. The new government's swift adherence to the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty notwithstanding, the changes thus far have been mood, not substance. Unarguably, however, the Foreign Office is back in business - and there is much business to be done.



In the short term, the outlines of a possible bargain in Amsterdam have become clearer this week. The beef ban seems set to be lifted, and that would be a more than symbolic blessing born of the new mood. Britain would be granted permanent exemption from plans to abolish European Union border controls, and integrationist Franco-German designs for European defence would be put on ice. In return this country would accept a -modest extension of majority voting. The prime uncertainty surrounds quota-hopping. But for all the campaign thunder on the issue, Labour in government has carefully avoided threatening to block an overall deal if it does not secure satisfaction on fish catches. Increasingly, Amsterdam looks a summit condemned to

succeed. Still to be addressed, though, is the matter of monetary union. Ah, murmur the wise men at the Foreign Office, but the federalist tide in France and Germany is starting to recede. Perhaps: but nothing is more federal than a shared currency and its management. Labour will not join in the first wave, but, like the Tories in their less immoderate days, promises an open mind thereafter. In this stance they are right, as were their predecessors. The common currency might just work - but it would be

better not to experiment. The benefits of the single currency venture abandoned are mostly symbolic; at worst it could turn into an anti-democratic strait-jacket. Alas, barring a deadly broadside from the Bundesbank or a reversal of French public opinion, the scheme seems likely to go ahead in 1999 - not least because of the misguided "bicycle theory" which holds that if the vehicle of European integration ceases to move forward, the riders will fall off.

Unlike the Conservatives, whose stubbornness on other issues generated such ill will that no one in Europe listened even when they did have a point, Labour will doubtless gain a hearing, if only from delight that Margaret Thatcher's Eurosceptic successors have left the stage. But the final outcome will surely be the same, and sometime early in the next millennium, a first or second Blair administration will have to make up its mind on whether to join. Mr Cook vows that Britain will take its proper place alongside France and Germany in European affairs. But how can it belong to the inner triangle, if it shuns the scheme that, for better or worse, has become the yardstick of European progress? Governments come and governments go. But even in this sun-lit honeymoon for Labour, the European dilemma will not.

### ■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

### Real value of nursery vouchers

Sir: You report ("New ministers keep their promises", 7 May) that David Blunkett is to set about abolishing the nursery voucher scheme and to return the funding to schools directly. Those of us who have been forced to implement Tory cuts to schools' budgets over recent years will be watching very closely to see exactly what this means.

It is important to understand that the nursery voucher scheme was, in fact, a cut in school funding. Before the scheme was introduced, each "rising five" child who came to a primary school's reception class or nursery unit brought with him or her a certain amount of funding from the local education authority. In Devon, that amount was around £1 500 When the voucher scheme was introduced this sum was clawed back from the school's budget and replaced by the £1,100 represented by the voucher: a de facto cut of £400 Exeter Road Primary School per child. The figures vary around

V

the country, but in every case the net result was a cut in school budgets. If Mr Blunkett returns only the

value of the voucher to our schools, he will be endorsing a Tory education cut, and this will be an act of betrayal to all of us who, in a spirit of guarded optimism, voted for his party and hoped for a level of school funding that was at least operable. What we expect from him, at the very least, is a return to the level of funding per child that existed before the introduction of vouchers.

Beyond that, we expect him to reduce the size of all primary school classes, not just those of five- to seven-year-olds. It may be that this would mean breaking the Labour promises of low taxation; for that, we might well be prepared to forgive

MAL PEET Exmouth. Devon

#### NCT must remain free from commercial interests Sir: I can reassure your correspondent, Steve Hickman Sir: It is heartbreaking to watch the

(Letters, 7 May), that the disquiet over the National Childbirth Trust's links with Sainsbury's is not an attempt to prevent the manufacture, sale or use of formula milk. This is a legitimate activity, and I fully support parents' choices over infant feeding. I would like to see all parents being able to make an informed choice, and for me that means that their choice should be free from influence by commercial interests.

I hope that Mr Hickman and his partner felt that their breastfeeding counsellor was a source of independent information, and this is what I fear has been lost by the NCT accepting sponsorship from an infant formula manufacturer. This is why so many counsellors will leave unless this issue can be resolved. If we cannot provide the independent service we feel parents deserve, we will provide it elsewhere. K BROAD PHYLL BUCHANAN National Childbirth Trust Breastfeeding Counsellors Paisley, Renfrewshire

NCT be torn apart when it has provided more support for parents through childbirth and early years than any other organisation ("NCT in crisis over Sainsbury sponsorship", 6 May). After all there is only so much an overburdened NHS can do and the NCT has worked hand in hand with the NHS to create more choice in childbirth and make it a better experience.

There are many of us at the local level who have spent rewarding years organising ante-natal classes, breast-feeding support, social events and other services to ease the transition from giving birth into parenthood, which can otherwise be a very isolating time for many mothers. We can only look on with sadness and ask those at the centre to reflect on two points of commonsense managerial practice, which seem to have been overlooked in recent decision-making.

huge increases in local membership fees, which is a recipe for selfextinction, but such changes have been foisted on members without

proper consultation. In the same way that many unions and professional associations have had to become more democratically accountable to the members over the last 20 years, so must the NCT have an overhaul of its approach to accountability and participation.

Second, these changes have been made to support an increasingly topheavy centralised operation. undermining the strength of local branches who are the mainstay in delivering services to the community. This flies in the face of good managerial practice as other organisations move to thin managerial hierarchies and decentralise and empower those at the front line.

Only by being less defensive and listening to local members can it rebuild the trust and faith that we have had in the past, and become again the dynamic organisation it has always been. Dr DIANA WINST

Director Health Management Programme Imperial College Management School London SW7

Sir: Linda Cockshaw (Letters, 7

May) encapsulates the essence of

why the Tories lost the election and

why it had very little to do with a

"split party" or "time for a change".

I too, like the other 53,732

businesses that failed in 1993, had a

life's endeavour ruined and old-age

receive a resettlement and winding-

within two days of my receivership a

up allowances. Instead, I received

demand from the bank to pay the

There can't have been many

during the recession.

insidious guarantee elicited from me

voters, since the beginning of the 1990s, who have not been "touched"

directly, or through acquaintance, by

unemployment, business failure or

voters have been traumatised by

Tory policies. Yet time and again

loss of one's career "is akin to

house repossession. Vast numbers of

their public statements, contrary to

the self-evident truths around them.

beggared belief in credibility. Neil Hamilton's statement that the

bereavement" is quite correct. May I

say to those outgoing Tories who will

now have to "get on their bikes" to

seek alternative employment "that

sacrified so much because of so few.

never in the endeavours of a post-

war administration have so many

security jeopardised. Unlike the

Hamiltons of Tatton, I did not

# LETTER from

transfer of power has been so stark that Westminster feels like Saigon-on-Thames, two anecdotes only.

I meet Michael Foot in celebratory mood at an outdoor party. There is talk of Labour's cautious economic programme.
"I'm not cautious," roars Foot suddenly. "Put up taxes, I say. Put 'em UP [skywards jab of stick] and up ... the higher the better!" A New Labour couple swivel, mouths flapping open with gloriously Bateman-esque expressions of horror.

A few days later, I meet Alan Howarth, the former Tory minister who defected to Labour and was elected under new colours this month. As an education minister, he tells the same chair behind the same desk as he last occupied when education minister in John Major's government. Strange days.

As a Proust-lover (and therefore a member of a small, fanatical, quasi-religious sect) I have news of great moment: Penguin has barmily and delightfully embarked on a complete new translation of the great work. It will owe nothing to the marvellous original C K Scott-Moncrieff translation - whose instantly recognisable slim blue volumes have changed many lives and can be glimpsed in one of David Hockney's new flower paintings at the Annely Juda gallery

in London.
The "new Proust" will even have a different name; instead of the Shakespearean "Remembrance of Things Past" (which Proust himself was never happy with) it will be called, more accurately, "In Search of Lost Time". Six translators are now engaged in the mammoth task, under the direction of Christopher Prendergast of King's College, Cambridge, and they hope to publish the hardback threevolume version from Allen

Lane in 2000. Meanwhile, Penguin is to establish a Web-site for Proustians to compare translations. They will also repub-lish Scott-Moncrieff's version this October. I should also mention that Alain de Botton's after all. just-published How Proust Can Change Your Life is the

fter a week in which the funniest book I've read for ages - a self-help manual, if you please, based on Proust's life and work. Since Proust was a famously daylight-shunning, self-pitying hypochondriac who failed in every attempt at conventional life or employment, this may seem bonkers. It is; but it is also full of truth and laughter. Anyway, Proust can change your life: that's why there's a cult.

> A very strange experience, which you could almost call Proustian: I was leafing through the Daily Mail and was suddenly transported back to Dundee High School, circa 1967 - the smell of chalk and floor-polish, ink-stained, carved desks, much yelling of Why? Because the paper had

It's the funniest book I have read for ages a self-help manual based on Proust's life and works. This may seem bonkers. It is

a long feature about Heather Ripley, who played Dick Van Dyke's flaxen-haired daughter in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

It turns out that she is an eco-protester in the Swampy mould, living on a Scottish farm. The film broke up her parents' marriage and condemned her to loneliness during filming in London and then on the television celebrity

circuit as a child star. But 30 years ago, before that, the stunningly beautiful Heather sat in front of me at school. She was the first girl I had something like a crush on. Being a typical Scottish male, however, I was unable to express my feelings other than by leaning over and repeatedly yanking her spectacular golden pigtails until she cried. I got the strap. She went off to be a film star. Life seemed hard. But maybe I had the best of it

Andrew Marr

#### Mexico's model political system

Sir: Phil Davison states that Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party most resembles "the old Soviet" Communist Party due to its longstanding rule (8 May). This fails to acknowledge that for more than 20 years Mexicans have built a strong system of political parties and have enacted an electoral legislation that combines first-past-the-post with proportional representation - which

the UK is only beginning to explore.

Mexico's constitution prevents any single party from being over-represented by more than 9 per cent. In order to secure a majority of 251 seats (out of 500) a party must have received at least 42 per cent of the vote. For the past two general elections - and in nearly 50 local ones – no serious irregularities have emerged, and all political parties now have fair access to the media, with an independent judiciary as the supreme electoral authority. The fruits of these reforms are there for all to see: over 35 million Mexicans live in states ruled by parties other than the one which has retained the majority at the national level, in clear recognition of local political trends. I must also point out that the

nayor of Mexico City has never been, as Mr Davison suggests, "hand-picked" by the ruling party. Indeed, the fact that the inhabitants of Mexico City are about to elect their Governor should confirm the depth of the reforms carried out under President Zedillo's administration. SANTIAGO ONATE Ambassador, Embassy of Mexico London WI

### Reasons behind Tory election swings

Sir: I have long supported your correspondents' case for compulsory voting (Letters, 7 May). The outcome of the county council elections on 1 May makes me hesitate. The normal turnout at such elections is 35-40 per cent - from voters with a knowledge and interest in local government. In recent years in the shires this has produced a distinct move towards the Liberal

Democrats. On 1 May, because of the coincidental general election, the county turnout rose to 75 per cent. Most of these extra shire "Tory tendency" voters, with little appreciation of county council issues, either staved "true blue" or protested by voting for - and I quote from a voter - "that nice safe Mr Blair". Hence the Tory county council gains.

The natural turnout at county elections will only improve by switching funding progressively from central government to the council tax payers and by better media coverage and their recognition that council elections exist in their own right and are not simply an opinion survey on the popularity of central government. JOHN PALMER

Councillor East Hampshire District Council Portsmouth. Hampshire

electronic voting?

#### ALAN BERESFORD Bushey, Hertfordshire

Sir: Present during the counting of votes, I was worried at what I saw: clumsy fingers on horny hands, hesitantly sorting the papers and (occasionally) putting them into the rrong piles.

I spoke to a party official. I was told that there was no cause for concern as the counting procedure incorporated checks. These checks were not performed at every table.

An electronic system of vote-casting would avoid most errors. The manpower savings must be immense: the number of people needed to print, collect, transport and count he votes could be reduced and much time saved. Electronic voting HUGH LINDSAY
Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
The writer was Roman Catholic Bishop

Hugh LindsAy
has, I believe, been used elsewhere satisfactorily. Why not here?

H B GOULD Guildford, Surrey

Why not give the  $UK \mid Advantages$  of youth for Tory party

> Sir: It is understandable that William Hague is the favourite to take the Tory leadership. The average age in the Conservative Party is 64 and rising. As he is a mere 36, Mr Hague could well be one of the few Tory members who are still alive if and when the Conservative Party regains power. PAUL WALTER Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: I refer to Colin Brown's article "Howard's champagne pact goes flat"
(7 May) in which he told us that

William Hague is 36, his girlfriend 28. I am disappointed that he did not tell us the ages of the others, namely, Michael Howard and his wife, Sandra, Kenneth Clarke, John Redwood, "one Redwood campaign supporter", "one of Mr Howard's supporters" and, most importantly, the champagne.
PETER BURNETT

Pebworth, Stratford on Avon

Blair being photographed in her night attire at her front door

mer MP, contemplating his financial future

Dear Mr Eleventh - opening line of a computerised letter sent to the 11th Earl of Coventry

QUOTE UNQUOTE

We are not the masters. The people are the masters. We are the people's servants - Tony Blair, to Labour MPs

Trade unions are employers. We don't run our organisations like

some kind of hippie commune - Alan Johnson, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, and now a Labour MP

I knew that politics would bring many strange experiences, but

nothing in life can prepare a man to make small talk to a trans-

sexual bird cage - Martin Bell, MP for Tatton, on meeting Miss Moneypenny, the 7ft transvestite candidate with a cage on her head

All contributions will be gratefully received - Neil Hamilton, for-

My mother had her formula for avoiding such a nightie night-

mare. She dressed and slapped on the make-up before she said

"Good morning" to even a red box - Carol Thatcher, on Cherie

He is such an important part of my life that if I die before him I want a little bit of my ashes put in his food so that I can finally live inside him - Drew Barrymore, acress, on her devotion to her cat Only the English would call it slush. The Italians wouldn't call it slush. Nor would the Irish. What you call slush I call emotive melody - Chris Rea, singer-songwitter



A bust of Plato, on display at the Vatican Museum Plato's training for rulers of the state

Sir. Plato in *The Republic* demands that the rulers of the state should live and he housed so that their dwellings are open to all critizens and that they should live as men under strict military training and discipline

Their food is to be provided by the other citizens as an agreed wage for the duties they perform as Guardians, and it should be suitable for brave men living under military

training and discipline. They are not allowed to handle money, nor to possess silver or gold. They must eat together in messes and live like soldiers in camp, although they must have enough provision to enable them to do their duty and not be tempted to prey upon the community. Strange, I don't seem to have seen

(Letters: "Socratic road to political wisdom", 7 May). MPs living like that. PAMELA DONOHUE Sheffield

### Don't let the critics dismiss Helfgott

Sir: Before listening to David Helfgott at the Royal Festival Hall on Monday ("He shone", 8 May), I went along to see the "Modern Art in Britain 1910-14" exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery. The exhibition is showing works of art acknowledged as great nowadays, despite an unfavourable reaction by the critics when originally shown.

I don't suggest that Helfgott will be looked back on as brilliant, but perhaps when we experience different interpretations of the current norm, we should use them to question accepted views, rather than dismissing them. MICK PALMER Harpenden, Henfordshire

### The 'hidden suffering' behind abortion

Sir: George Gamer's anger (Letters, 8 May) at Cardinal Hume's comparison between the campaign to outlaw slavery and our duty to abolish abortion virtually on demand" may

stem from a misunderstanding. The Cardinal described abortion as a scandal "not only because of the destruction of human life, but also because of the hidden suffering of so many women". He was not saying that each woman who has an abortion is forced to do so, although many say afterwards that they were not acting vith complete freedom.

Millions were forced into slavery in the last century. Nowadays, force is

being used against millions of living, developing and defenceless human lives. What actually happens in abortion is truly horrible; the broadcasters refused to screen a prolife film which, the Cardinal said, is shocking but not as shocking as the reality. Until most of us know much more than we do at present about these harsh realities, we cannot claim that there is a well-informed public opinion, on which our public legislation is based.

of Hesham and Newcastle, 1974-92 Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loudon E14 5DL

(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telepho

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge cupublished letters.

### Karl-Uwe von Hassel

Kai-Uwe von Hassel was regarded as an outstanding representative of the Protestant majority of the north German Christian Democratic Union (CDU). His first top job was as Minister-President, or head of government, of Schleswig-Holstein, in 1954-62. He was campaign manager in the elec-tion of 1961, Chancellor Kon rad Adenauer's last, in which ground due to the Berlin Wall Strauss was forced out of office as Defence Minister in 1962, the slender, averagely intelligent northerner replaced him. Von Hassel had a good military pedigree which must have been some comfort to the traditionalist wing of the West German armed forces, the Bundeswehr.

Von Hassel's grandfather Friedrich Hassel distinguished himself as a Lieutenant-General in the Prussian army in the war against Denmark in 1864. For this he was ennobled gaining the coveted "von". Uwe-Kai von Hassel's father, Theodor, served in the German colonial army in Tanganyika, East Africa, then a German colony, before becoming a planter in 1909. Theodor von Hassel had his three farms expropriated when Britain took over Tanganyika at the end of the First World War. The family had to leave East Africa, where Uwe-Kai was born, the third of five children, in 1913.

Later Uwe-Kai von Hassel followed his father back to Tanganyika after completing gram-

management training in and promote? The politicians Schlesweg-Holstein. There he pushed strongly for the idea of worked as a plantation trader until he was interned after the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939

In 1940 he was exchanged and returned to Germany, where his knowledge of languages led to his recruitment into the German army intelligence corps evaluating British the Christian Democrats losts, radiosignals. As a lieutenant of the reserve he served in Italy, crisis of August. But when the where he was awarded the War overweight, highly intelligent Service Medal First Class, and Catholic Bavarian Franz Josef where he was made a prisonerof war of the British after the German surrender in 1945. He was soon on his way back

to Germany to work in the housing department in Flensburg. He joined the CDU in 1946 and climbed the ladder to political success in an area which was naturally conservative, and had to cope with large numbers of refugees from the lost territories. In many places the refugees out-numbered the natives. In 1950 33 per cent of the population of Schleswig-Holstein were expellees and a further 5.2 per cent were refugees from the Soviet Zone. He and his wife, Elfriede, a German from Samoa, could understand their misery. They soon elected him Mayor of Glücksburg and, in 1953, their

As Minister of Defence von Hassel attempted to improve the poor image of the armed forces. He took over a force which had expanded too quickly and was suffering from an identity crisis. Which of the old German military traditions could the new, democratically mar school and agricultural controlled Bundeswehr endorse

the soldier as the citizen in uniform who could take his grievances to a Parliamentary Defence Commissioner. They honoured the names of the July 1944 plotters against Hitler. Many of the generals seemed to want a continuation of the

Wehrmacht's way of doing

things. A tidal wave hit the Establishment in 1964, when Vice-Admiral Hellmut Heye, the Parliamentary Defence Commissioner and former CDU MP. raised serious doubts about where the Bundeswehr was going. He thought there was a danger of its becoming a "state within the state". He exposed the brutal treatment received by some national servicemen. Like von Hassel, from a distinguished military family, the Admiral did not get the support he expected from the Defence

Minister and resigned. On 1 July 1965 von Hassel published his decree, largely written by officers and civil servants, on military tradition and came under attack from Right and Left. It was a compromise

new armed forces. As this controversy was going on another hit von Hassel. The German air force was equipped in 1961 with USdesigned, but German-built Lockheed F-104G fighterbombers. Over a four-year period 66 crashed and 36 pilots were killed. Up to 1973, 157 crashed and half their pilots, including von Hassel's son Joachim, did not survive. There was much public debate, with von Hassel being blamed for purchasing them rather than the French Mirage. He narrowly avoided being forced to resign The air-force chief, General Heinz Panitzki, resigned to protest about the failure to improve the safety equipment of the F104. The Inspector General of the Bundeswehr, the highest-ranking officer, General Heinz Trettner, went in August because he disagreed with the concept of the citizen in uniform. The final straw for him

was a decree allowing the pub-

lic service trade union to recruit

members among soldiers and

The fall of Ludwig Erhard's

civil employees of the MoD.

compelled by the origins of the Christian Democratic / Free Democratic coalition led to the setting up of the grand coalition of Christian Democrats with the main opposition Social De-mocrats (SPD), in December 1966. In this new government of Kurt Georg Kiesinger (CDU), von Hassel served as Minister for Refugees and Expellees. This was no easy ministry. By December 1960 25 per cent, over 13 million, of the West German population, excluding West Berlin, were expellees or refugees. Their integration was a miracle. The Far Right NPD, a rising force at the time, sought to exploit their resentment. Von Hassel's job was to recognise their concerns without tipping over into nationalism. He did reasonably well in navigating this minefield of legitimate grievances and unrealistic aspirations watched carefully by

the foreign media. The fall of the Christian Democrats in September 1969 did not end von Hassel's career. He was elected President of the Bundestag, a position he held until 1972, after which he served as Deputy President until 1976. He failed in his bid to seek re-

election to the Bundestag in 1980 by which time he had already been delegated to the European Parliament. 1979-84.

Although von Hassel was keenly interested in the European Community he mainfained an interest in the wider world. He served for many years as President of the German-Iranian Foundation, and as President of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Tropical and Sub-Tropical Agriculture.

David Child:

Kai-Uwe von Hassel, politician: born Gare, Tanganyika 21 April 1913; Minister-President Schleswig-Holstein 1954-63: Minister of Defence, Federal Republic of Germany 1963-66, for Refugees and Expellees 1966-69: President of Bundestag 1969-72, Vice-President 1972-76; President, European Union of Christian Democrats 1973-80. Vice-President 1980-84; MEP 1979-34; married 1940 Elfriede Fröhlich (died 1971; one daugh ter, and one son deceased), 1972 Dr Monika Weichert (one son); died Aachen, Germany 8 May



Portrait of you Hassel by Karsh of Ottawa

YOU'RE LOOKING AT the Hanging Rock, formed by over a million years of erosion, deep in the heart

New Mexico. Around here it's the most breathtaking suspension you'll ever see. Or it was until the Jeep Grand Cherokeen visons in the seep Grand Cherokeen v

Limited came along. Its sophisticated quadra coil suspension beats any sedimentary glyptolith hands down. Add to that he had be to the second suspension beats any sedimentary glyptolith hands down. Add to the second suspension beats any sedimentary glyptolith hands down.

the 8 way power adjustable soft leather seats, automatic temperature control and a 6 speaker audio system (for rock fan speaker)

### Brian Wenham

Brian Wenham held many of warm-hearted genius, one who the top posts in BBC Television before becoming managing director of BBC Radio, but it was in Independent Television that conveyed instructions and conhe started and finished his broadcusting career. He was highly civilised with a sharp wit and an acerbic manner which perhaps hampered his promotion to the very top positions for

Wenham's father died of a heart attack at the age of 32 programme which had so when his son was only eight. When Wenham himself had a first heart attack at the age of 34. just after two gruelling years Curran, then the BBC Director-General, told him: "I have invested a lot of confidence in you,

so bloody well stay alive."



Photograph: BBC

John's College, Oxford, and gained a first class degree. He did his National Service as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers and then taught at a private school in Virginia. He returned to England and for the next seven years worked in Independent Television. His various jobs with ITN included Lobby Correspondent, American Correspondent and editor/producer of Dateline ecutive: born 9 February 1937: Westminster. For four years he television Journalist, Indepenworked as a freelance, producing Stringgle for Peace and Power of the Dollar for ABC and News at Ten for ITN. He was 1971-78, Controller, BBC2 1978also the London correspon-

BBC to edit Panorama in suc- ments 1993-97; married 1966 cession to Jeremy Isaacs. He is Elisabeth Woolley (two daugh-

always wore an astrakhan cap which made him look like a Pakistani guerrilla. He also gratulations to his staff in terse messages written on sticky pads, known as "Wenhamgrams". After two years he was made Head of the Current Affairs Group following a major reorganisation in the wake on the controversial Yesterday's Men

enraged Harold Wilson. He was promoted next to become the Controller of BBC2. Channel 4 was then looming editing Panoruma, Sir Charles and Wenham had to remedy any weakness in the upmarket niche. He managed to increase the BBC2 audience by 50 per cent and was duly rewarded by being made Director of Programmes with a seat on the Board of Management, under the overall direction of Bill Cotton, the TV managing

> director. When Alasdair Milne was the Director-General he wished to put Wenham in charge of all the news and current affairs programmes but Wenham did not want to take on the task. His reasons were never clear, for he certainly had the experience. Instead he became the managing director of Radio, a medium in which he had never worked before, in succession to Richard

> He made a success of what he always used to refer to as "the wireless". But he was out of favour with the new BBC management and in 1988 he opted for premature retirement. He went back to Independent Television as a consultant and a nonexecutive director of Carlton Television.

Leonard Miall

Brian George Wenham, media consultant and broadcasting exdent Television News 1962-69; also the London correspon-dent of the New Republic in the United States.

82. Director of Programmes, BBC TV 1983-85, managing di-rector, BBC Radio 1986-87; He was then recruited by the chairman, UK Radio Developremembered by his colleagues (ers); died Weyhridge, Surrey 8 of those days as a laid-back. May 1997.

### Narciso Yepes

May I add a footnote to the works), and my father had in obituary of Narciso Yepes [6 fact written the guitar Con-May]? writes Salvador Bacarisse. Colin Cooper refers to the music for the film La Fille aux year d'or as having been comcomposed by my father. Sal-vador Bacarisse (1898-1963). Fille aux year d'or he asked who was, like many of the muthat time exiled from Franco's authorship: Spain in Paris.

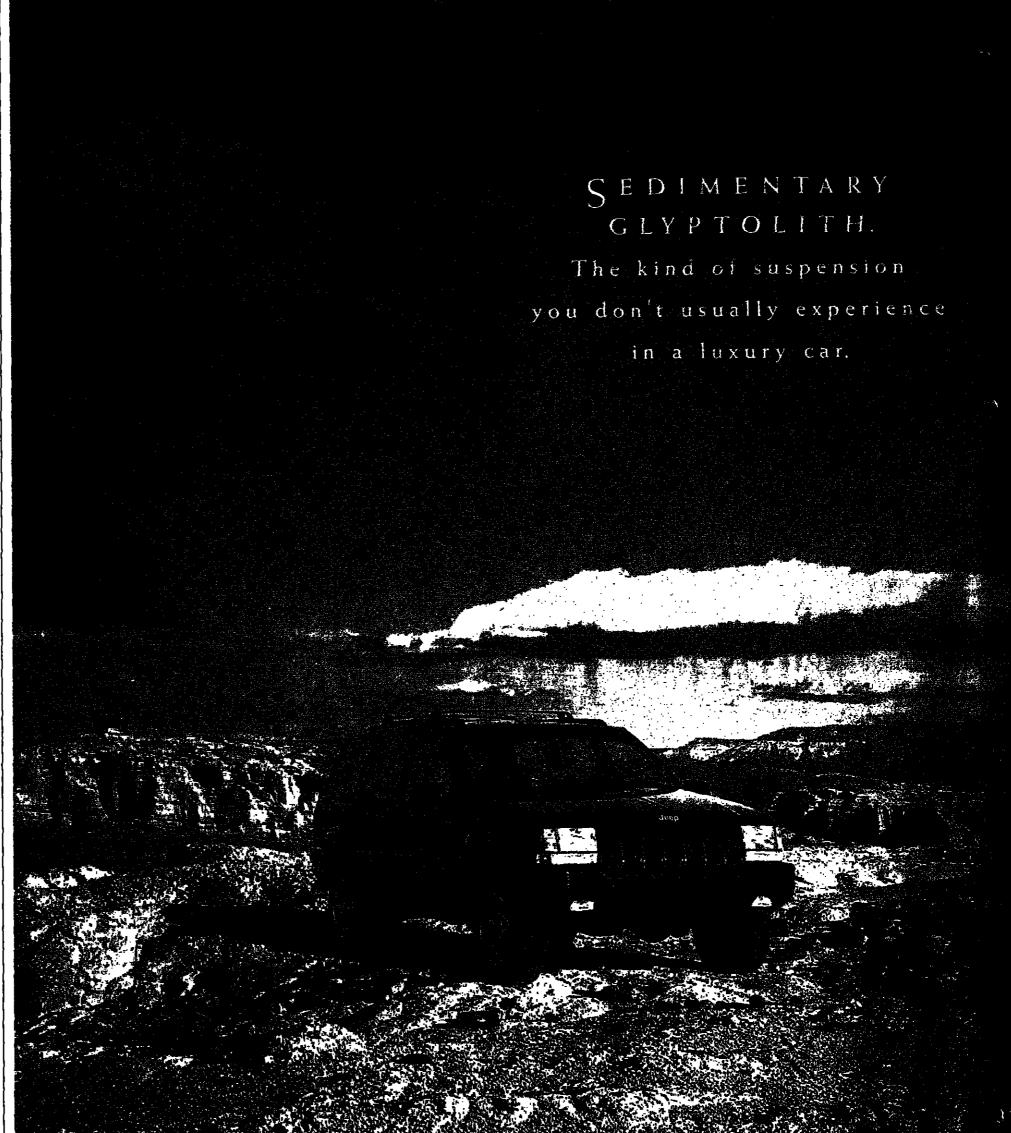
sic (a catalogue published in in my possession, leaves this in Madrid in 1990 lists over 100 no doubt.

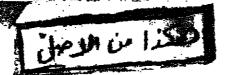
certino en la memor for Yepes posed by Yepes. It was in fact not a composer, was requested Fille aux years d'or he asked my father whether he would sical "Generation of 1927", at write it without declaring his

Yepes, unlike my father, was Narciso Yepes had long been well known at the time. The coran admirer of my father's mu-

Eugene Vale, author, died Los plays include A Global Affair, The 13th Apostic (1959). Screen- for an Academy Award in 1956.

Angeles 2 May, aged 81. Spent Francis of Assisi and The Dark 21 years writing the best-seller Wave, which was nominated





### **Abbot Aelred Watkin**

Abbot Aelred Watkin was one of the most loved and most respected monks in the Benedic-Inne Order. The two most conspicuous features of his character - a deep spirituality com-bined with an infectious love of life - are encapsulated in one of his favourite quotations from William Blake: "Everything that lives is holy; life delights in life."
He was born Christopher Ingram Watkin in 1918, the

son of a Roman Catholic philosopher and historian, E.I. Watkin, their common middle name perpetuating descent from Herbert Ingram, the founder of the Illustrated London News. His mother, Helen Shepheard, was the daughter of Maria Pasqua, who had been a penniless Italian model until she was adopted by a member of the Baring family, the wealthy Comtesse de Noailles.

The young Christopher was educated by the Dominicans at Laxion School in Northamptonshire. He was not, by his own admission, a pious boy, and went through a period of pro-found unsettlement within the Roman communion. His interests from an early age were literary and antiquarian, but he was aware that his conscience

was continually telling him that a truth, however unwelcome, could never be evaded nor adapted to one's own tastes. It was through the guidance of his confessor - Father Action Tindal - that he came to recognise that earlier doubts had been illusory and that his ultimate destiny was to become a Benedictine monk. On 14 January 1936, never having seen Downside Abbey, and not knowing anyone there, he offered himself as a novice - "a marvellous providence of God to a not too repentant sinner", he

Subsequently observed.
His life and career thereafter followed an extraordinary course, at every stage marked by the delightful idionyncrasics of a man whom nature had fashioned to be rather more like a clown than a cleric: short of stature, bulky and clumsy in movement, eyes alight with mischief, and a curiously high-pitched, clipped but emphatic diction which always commanded attention. If not a monk, if not a clown, he had all the capacities, and most of the credentials, of a fine medieval scholar.

He went up to Christ's College. Cambridge, to read History, subsequent to his ordination in

1943. As a second-year undergraduate, he had the intellectual acumen, and also the temerity, to detect serious errors in Cardinal-Gasquet's transcription of some of Lord Acton's letters, and, in collaboration with Herbert Butterfield, duly published an exposé in the Cambridge His-torical Journal. Before proceeding to his Double First in History, he had already become a Fellow of the Royal Historical

Returning to Downside to teach at the school, notwithstanding offers of greater prestige at Cambridge, he continued to produce outstanding contri-butions to medieval scholarship - the editing of the three-volume Great Chartulary of Glastonbury (1946-58), and the Registrum Archidiaconatus Norwyci (1946-48) for the Norwich Records Society—while gaining for his pupils a steady stream of history awards at Oxford and Cambridge.

His methods were again idiosyncratic. On one occasion, in one of Watkin's classes, a school inspector noted with horror a boy wearing a dunce's cap - the penalty, Watkin explained, for asking a question to which he already knew the answer. The

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In fact, you'll have to go a long way to find anything as rugged and spectacular as the Jeep Grand Cherokee. Like New Mexico

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wesome power. Its 4 litre, 6 cylinder engine achieves 0-60 mph in under 10 seconds (13.9 in the Laredo turbo diesel).



inspector was mollified when the boy then supplied him with the recondite details of the height and weight of King John. In 1962, having been a house-master since 1948, Watkin proa headmaster.

ceeded to the Headmastership of Downside. He loved the dignity, cherished the problems of peculiarly difficult years in which to headmaster, enjoyed the awed respect of his colleagues whenever he spoke at conferences, and revelled in informal social occasions. He was a disciplinarian of the old school, while usually sympathising with errant boyhood, since so many of its delinquen-

cies reminded him of his own stroke, he returned to Downschooldays. On relinquishing the head-ship in 1975, he had every hope of becoming Abbot, but it was not to be. He was sent to Beccles in Suffolk as a parish priest. His talents were certainly not wasted, for these were years of great changes within the Catholic liturgy, and none of them congenial to Watkin himself. But he did his duty by his flock, and adopted methods of delegation of responsibility within an active parish council similar to those he had used as certain indulgences, however, second glass of port, perhaps; and very definitely the joys He rose to a wholly improbable civic emmence as well.

Having been persuaded to stand as an independent candidate for the Council, he found himself established habits!" elected Mayor of Beccles in 1979, taking great delight in wearing his mayoral chain over his monkish habit. Disliking long speeches as much as he disapproved of sermons in excess of eight minutes, he conducted council proceedings at a rattling pace. Decisions had never before been taken with such minimal debate. He chose as his mayoral chaplain the local officer of the Salvation Army. In 1989, having suffered a

side, and was given the titular honour of Abbot of Glastonbury. There were to be no more books from his pen to follow the deeply spiritual writings of his earlier Downside years - The Heart of the World (1954), The Enemies of Love (1958) and Resurrection is Now (1975). He could no longer take long walks (a great hardship, since he loved the countryside), but he continued to play a full part in the monastic life. There were which he refused to forego - a of tobacco. "I do not fear death," he would tell his friends, "but it is such a break from

David Newsome

Christopher Ingram Watkin, monk: born 23 February 1918; clothed a monk 1937 as Dom Aelred: ordained priest 1943: FRHistS 1946: housemaster, Downside School 1948-62. Headmaster 1962-75: FSA 1950: FRSA 1969; parish priest, Beccles, Suffolk 1975-89; Mayor of Beccles 1979; titular Abbot of Glastonbury 1989-97: died Stratton-on-the-

### Jesus the Jew's embarrassing brother faith o reason

Pierre-Antoine Bernheim caused a storm in France with his claim that Jesus had a brother whose existence the Church tried to hide. It is the root of anti-Semitism, he argues.

Did Jesus belong to a normal family? Did he have real brothers and sisters? Did they reject or embrace his teachings? Many Christians, Ro-man Catholics in particular, believe that Jesus had no brothers and sisters. In order to maintain a belief in Mary as ever-virgin, they are obliged to argue that the people referred to in the gospels as Jesus's brothers and sisters were in fact his first cousins. However, most Protestant scholars and increasing numbers of Roman Catholic exegetes are now convinced that, after Jesus's birth. Joseph and Mary had four boys whom they called James, Joses, Judas and Simon and two or more daughters. The implications of this are significant.

Most churchgoers have also absorbed the view that Jesus's brothers did not believe in him and were not among his followers during his ministry. They often assume that Jesus's family did not share his supposedly radical interpretation of the Jewish Law. Yet a critical look at the evidence raises major questions. The antagonism between Jesus and his family found in the gospels, far from reflecting authentic traditions, may well represent much later conflicts between the communities to which the gospelwriters belonged and the Palestinian churches in which the brothers of Jesus were very

influential. in the gospels of a Christian discipleship which requires total dissociation from family ties, such as practised with sometimes disastrous results by modern cults, may be misto explain the importance of Jesus's family - James in particular - in the early church. not hostile to Jesus dur lifetime.

In Western Christian tradition Peter is regarded as the most significant apostle, undisputed leader of the primitive church and, by Roman Catholics, as the first Pope. Such a view, enshrined in the principle of apostolic succession, underpins the authority of the Roman Catholic church and its hierarchy. Thus it was under Peter's authority and with his full approval that Paul was in charge of the conversion of pagans. Such a • "James, Brother of Jesus" by

the Apostles and Paul's letters. These documents show that the church's foremost leader around 50CE was James, "the brother of the Lord", head of the Jerusalem church. It was James who was the key decision-maker in controversial questions such as whether pagans could be admitted into the Christian community without first converting to Judaism. On several occasions Peter and Paul had to submit to his authority. Sources outside the New Testament tell us that James had a reputation for his strict observance of the Jewish Law. but he seems to have been willing to accept non-Jewish converts into the Christian community. However, he required Christians of pagan origin to follow a number of rules derived from the Jewish Law and probably would have preferred them to become Jews. He was opposed to Paul, who wanted to redefine completely the identity of Israel and the role of the Law. Apart from his following the teachings of Jesus, very little distinguished James from most other Jews of his time. He would have been surprised if someone had told him that he adhered to a new religion.

Modern rediscovery of James's pre-eminence shows that the early church remained deeply rooted in Jewish tradition for some time. This church was without doubt following the example of "Jesus the Jew". The suc-Thus the picture presented cess of Paul's mission among pagans transformed the Christian community from a Jewish sect to a gentile church, for whom James increasingly became a source of embarrassment - a kind of anomaly in leading. It is certainly easier the history of the Church as they wanted to reconstruct it. James was swept under the carpet by those who if we assume that they were defended the importance of Paul, Peter and Rome the contribution of Jewish-Christianity was lost.

This emergence of James from obscurity sheds light on the changes which have taken place in the relationship between Judaism and Christianity and how they moved from common roots into antagonism. From our postholocaust perspective they also reveal how historically absurd Christian anti-Semitism has been.

historical reconstruction is Pierre-Antoine Bernheim is hardly confirmed by an impublished in the UK by SCM partial reading of the Acts of Press (£14.95)

#### Birthdays TODAY: Mr Milton Babbitt, com-

poser, 81; Mr Win Bischoff, chair-man, Schroders, 56; Mrs Barbara Taylor Bradford, author, 64; Mr William Cash, MP, 57; Sir Brian Corby, former chairman, Prudential Corporation, 68; Maj-Gen Peter Davies, Director General, RSPCA, 59; Maj-Gen Edward Fursdon, de-fence consultant, 72; Sir Edward Gardner QC, 85; Sir Basil Kelly, a former Lord Justice of Appeal. Northern Ireland, 77; Miss June Knox-Mawer, radio presenter, 67; Lady Lucinda Lambton (Lady Worsthorne), writer, broadcaster and photographer, 54; Mr Richard Lavers, ambassador to Ecuador, 50; Sir John Laws, High Court judge, 52: Miss Maureen Lipman, actress, 51; Sir William Lithgow, industrialist and farmer, 63; Lord Milligan, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scot-land, 63; Lt-Gen Sir Anthony Mullens, former deputy Chief of De-fence Staff, 61; Lord Mustill, a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 66; Sir David Orr, Chancellor, Queen's University of Belfast, 75; Sir Angus Paton, civil engineer, 92; Mr Bruce Raymond, jockey, 54; Mr Michael Shea, author, 59; Lord Smith, consulting surgeon, 83; Sir Denis Thatcher Bt, bu

TOMORROW: Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, 68; Sir Edgar Beck, president, John Mowlem, 86; Lady Rachel Billington, writer, 55; Sir Rhodes Boyson, 72; Mr Eric Burdon, Hamlin, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 67; Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, Racal Electronics, 71; Professor Antony Hewish, radio astronomer, 73; Sir An-

thony Hollis, High Court judge, 70; Sir Robert Hunt, former chairman, Dowty, 79; Sir Gordon Langley, High Court judge, 54; Brigadier Joan Moriarty, former matron-inchief, Army Nursing Services, 74; Mr John Parrott, snocker player, 33; Mr Jeremy Parman, television presenter and reporter, 47; Sir Ian Percival QC former Solicitor-General, 76; Mr Ian Rednath, cricketer, 56; Miss Natasha Richardson, actress, 34; Mr Mort Sahl, comedian, 70; Mr Mike Sleman, rugby player, 46; Miss Judith Weir, composer, 43; The Hon C.M. Wood-

### Anniversaries

house, historian, 80.

TODAY: Births: Sir Thomas Johnstone Lipton, millionaire grocer and sportsman, 1850; Fred Astaire (Frederick Austerlitz), dancer and actor, 1899. Deaths: George Vancouver, navigator, 1798; John Cameron An-drieu Bingham Morton ("Beachcomber"), humorist, 1979. Today is the Feast Day of St Alphius, St Antoninus of Florence, Si Calepodius, St Cataldus or Cathal, St Conleth or Conlaed, St Epimarchus, St Gordian, St John of Avila and St Solange. TO-MORROW: Births: Paul Nash, painter, 1889; Dame Margaret Rinherford, actress, 1892. Deaths: William Pitt, first Earl of Chatham, william Fift, Irist Earl of Challani, statesman, 1778; Spencer Perceval, prime minister, assassinated in the House of Commons 1812; Harold Adrian Russell "Kim" Philby, spy, 1988; Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Ansfrid, St Asaph, St Comgall, St Francis di Girolamo, St Gengulf or General St Inguits of Incomi. Gengoul, St Ignatius of Laconi, St Mayeul or Majohus, St Mamertus, St Richard Reynolds, St Tudy or Tudec of Brittany and St Walter of L'Esterp.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Jeep

TODAY: The Princess Royal, Pairon. Gloucestershire and North Avon Federation of Young Farmers' Clobs, attends the anon of young Farmers Clork, allerks the 60th universary of the Young Farmers' Clobs Show at the Equine Centre, Hart-pury College, near Gloucester, TOMOR-ROW, The Queen Mother attends the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades' Asso-

Changing of the Guard TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mountof Regiment mounts the Ouecu's Life Guard, Herse Guards, Ham: F Compa-ny Scots Guards mounts the Ouecu's Guard, Backingham Palace, 11.3kam, TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard, Horse Guards, Marre, 1st Battalion Seats Guards mounts the Oneen's



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Taking in the sights and sounds of Glyndebourne: It is difficult, but not possible, to be truly posh while spending large sums of money

Photograph: Tom Pilston

How does one become posh these days? Live in Essex, talk common, wear Oxfam, listen to the Spice Girls, avoid Radio 4... you know the kind of thing. In place of John's 'classless society' comes a time and place where less really is more. By Richard D North



# On being a toff in Tony's Britain

ritain has its first solidly middie-class prime minister since Clem Attlee - which proves that the People's Party only needs to offer the world the soothing mores of the professional type to secure a landslide. But it is truer than ever that many people still desperately try to appear working class, though this is hardly ever true of people who have known how boring that state really is and can do anything about it. Perversely, we find the PM insisting on first-name terms in the Cabinet - a slip which will encourage people to descend into personalities rather than remember the dignity of their office. The First Lady - already a woman earning more than many small countries - wears leisure outfits which would not be out of place in the departure lounge at Gatwick.

It is time to reassure ourselves that stylishness - the essence of poshness never dies. This prop the way, demonstrated by the news of the royal website being visited by 12.5 million people in the past few months: the royal family has never had ton. It was, according to Professor Alan Ross of Birmingham University in 1954, "essentially non-U" to describe things as posh, though the habit was "gaining ground amongst schoolboys of all classes". His paper was reprinted in Noblesse Oblige, the class warfare manual Nancy Mitford edited in 1956, a

time when everyone spoke obsessively about the classes because they recognised that society was soon to cease being divided into them.

The intervening years have seen class die, in the sense that neither advantage nor disadvantage is conferred just by people's background. To be fashionable might be all right among the very young, but its charm palls. Trendiness was born tawdry. Few can afford to be grand, in the sense that applies to some of the very rich or aristocratic. who can insulate themselves from society. Indeed, to be posh, an activity's satisfactions need to be lasting or deep, but it will be exercised by people too well mannered to want to cause disquiet to people 100 poor or lazy (or, more sadly, too stupid) to join in. It follows that it is difficult (though not impossible) to be posh while spending large sums of money. So the opera can be posh, but the ballet is more so.

make it posh, yet only a decade or two can transform a Rolls-Royce from risible vulgarity to desirability. There is nothing more posh than an English teenage girl wearing Oxfam and nothing posh at all about "It" girls who brag about their shopping. It is posh to wear good clothes which do not hear the mark of their maker on the outside.

Breeding used to matter. Not now. We all accept that the British are hopelessly mongrel, especially because our

we have a horror of snobs. It is a mark of social failure to admit to feeling anything like social superiority. Aristocrats and barrow boys have always had an affinity, a relationship which has especially flourished since the Sixties, when so many of both classes became photographers (pace Lichfield and Bailey). Beware feeling superior about an address - Essex is posh because it is prettier than expected and because of

the courage it takes to live there. The lower middle classes, when they could still be identified, were pitied by everyone else in society for their snobbery. Their confidence has not been much improved during the decades in which they have provided our prime ministers. Being located in the muddy middle, they have found mobility hard to embrace, unlike the volatile upper and lower classes.

be improvident, whatever young politicians are trying to achieve in that direction. But to plant even a hedge is posh (because it is a gift to the ungrateful future). To be interested in pensions is disastrously unposh. It smacks of selfconcern, whose most deplorable manifestation is most sorts of counselling. Smoking and any self-destructive activity stands a chance of being posh, as does anything to do with horses, according to Charles Jennings in his People Like Us - A Season Among the Upper Classes, just published.

It may be a little soon for the Blairendorsed Ford Galaxy "people mover" to dominate the Badminton horse trials this weekend; expect, however, a flurry of the vulgar Land-Rover Discovery among the far grander Defenders and Range Rovers of that marque. Though dangerous, jogging remains unposh, partly by being done in the kind

people have always married for love of clothes Tony's Cherie affects. It is posh for a woman to use her husband's name, because it demonstrates selfabandonment. It remains a sound rule for spouses to use each other's surnames only, whatever the trend in Downing Street.

Poshness depends on quality, and thus on obduracy. It attaches to clubs whose entry fee is talent or style, but never merely money. It is about being individualist, but not bolshie. In a classless society, and one whose official religion has become the suppression of elitism, anyone trying to maintain ordinary - that is to say, high - standards is dissident and stands a fair chance of being posh.

here isn't much that the BBC does which is exceptional, but Radio I has become intermittently posh. Its Essential Selection on Friday evening is accepted as defining what thoughtful their agenda, not in the usual modern way of seeking the lowest common denominator, but by being satisfyingly the best. The Barbican is posh in the

same way that Essex is. Sheer exuberance ensures the Spice Girls a degree of poshness, as it does Alan Clark (whose wealth and celebrity risk damaging this claim). Besides Mr Clark, other fading beauties achieve poshness in the degree to which they bave regained dignity having once thrown it away. Marianne Faithfull is a good example; Jane Birkin and Charlotte Rampling run her close. Helen Mirren is posh because although she's an actress, she often speaks excellent sense. All speak posh, which helps.

Any sensible and posh person is dismayed - genuinely disquieted - by the experience of waking up to Radio 4 in the morning. It is odd enough that government ministers have lives so empty

that they want to start work at 7 or 8am. The offence of the Today programme is to contrive a blend of indigestibility and pabulum which is offensive to posh people, who are busy, so they do not want flummery. The old World Service is a better model: its quality is derived from its being equally satisfactory in ambassadorial residences and mud

huts. The World Tonight comes closest. The Week, a weekly digest of the media, is posh partly because it avoids adjectives and is very late with the news. If a thing's worth knowing, it can be expected to remain so for seven days. Matthew Parris is posh because he recognises that an aphorism is to a joke what unprotected sex is to ball-

room dancing.
It is difficult to have anything to do with television and be posh, though Jon Snow's Channel 4 News comes nearest. The women on Newsnight nearly make it posh, but Jeremy Paxman's melodrabeyond rescue. It is doubtful that anyone who has anything remotely interesting to do will be watching television. unless - as in the case of Channel 4 News it amounts to a radio programme and does not interfere with preparing supper. Posh food is on the whole prepared at home, though it is posh to be so busy that one has to let someone else do it. The same principle more tenuously applies to bringing up or educating children but not to gardening, which one should do oneself.

Tesco is posher than Sainsbury because they recognise that it is retailers, not their customers, who should be aspirational. Posh eating out is difficult, though greasy spoons are possible, and the Market Café in Spitalfields remains a style leader. Despite its prices, The Connaught is posh, for either eating or sleeping.

By the way, it is virtually impossible

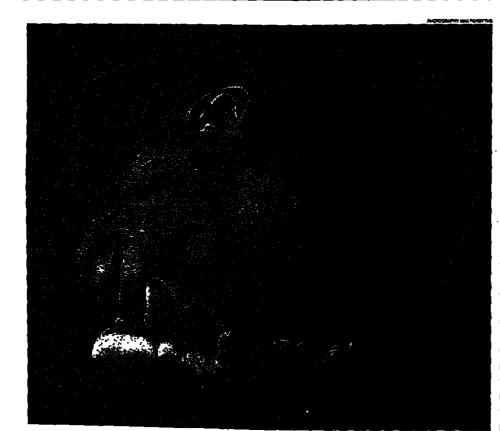
that any meal eaten at home will be dinner, and safest to use the word only when evening clothes are involved. Nancy Mitford thought only pets and children could be thought of as eating dinner, in the sense of its being their "main meal", in the middle of the day. Whatever we call it, and it doesn't much matter, it is quite posh to be up so early that one's main meal is eaten early.

A prime rule of postness used to be a pride in the Anglo-Saxon simplicities of life and speech. This led to a valuable loathing of anything French. It also led to the absurdity that the anglicised Italian word for a water closet - "lava-tory" - was preferred to "tollet". This is obviously ridiculous, but anyone so perfectly spiritual that they can use the word "toilet" without shame is probably already in heaven.

Several years of Labour government may change this. It is obviously right (though for years it was thought wrong) scent. Perfume is something the French make. Scent is something a respectable. British fox has and hounds follow (at least for now). There are very few rules now about speech, except that. everyone over 16 ought to speak as they want. Up until then, it is axiomatic and acceptable that everyone is driven to

sound as common as possible. On the whole, less is more. It is posh to be laconic. Short books are better than long ones, short films better than epics. Drawings are better than paintings (hence, the poshest galleries of all are the drawing rooms of the British Museum). Now that everyone has been everywhere and seen every natural wonder, staying at home to do a watercolour of one's window box is posh.

Warning: public displays of affection are seldom posh, and should be indulged in only when absolutely necessary for strictly private reasons.



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really attracted me as a venue for a day out, saddled as it is with that Hooray Henry image. So it was not a big surprise to discover that the rowing club there was not open to women, and had not been so for the last 200 years. However, this has all changed and the array of colonel types on the selection committee have done an about-turn and decided to admit women. In these days of the UK Men's Movement and new lads, it is so refreshing to see that a bunch of dyed-in-the-wool old misogynists has finally seen the light. If only! What actually happened was that open membership was a key

condition of a sizeable potential grant from the lottery. If only we women had known this years ago, we needn't have fought for equal rights - all we had to do was just give them a cheque. Money can't buy love, but it sure can get a load of duffers to throw open the doors of male preserves.

The indignity of the aging process in a country that worships youth is played out in so many different arenas. sport perhaps being one of the cruellest. Last week, Peter

Shilton, the ex-England goalkeeper who has been playing at Orient, was given his cards because he cannot kick the ball far enough. Well, pardon me for my girlie ignorance, but I always thought it was more important to stop the ball going in that net thing. Poor old Shilton – his humiliation is there for all to see and he will not be the last to be shoved out.

Last weekend. I'was in Norway for a comedy festival in Stavanger, a coastal town heavily involved in the oil business, thus attracting a a certain unpredictability selection of people from all over the world. Norwegians a shock on Tuesday night speak very good English and had very little trouble understanding what I was what was good about saying. In fact, so enthusiastic Portsmouth, that some did they seem to be for my appearance that when I trundled on stage, they gave wrong show, I carried on, A my boots a separate round of applause. So will this message to anyone holding these sorts of opinions who arrangement be reciprocated with a group of Norwegian has tickets to any of my shows comics coming to England to – don't come. perform their acts in their native tongue? What do you There seems to be a crime

I began my 30-date tour in Portsmouth this week. First



wave at the moment engulfing

the group known as "the super

rich". Numerous lords, ladies,

heiresses and millionaire types

as I abhor violence, I have to a certain rustiness as far as say I would much rather big venues are concerned and criminals robbed the superrich, who can afford it, rather about the audience. It came as than ordinary people, who cannot. Flaunting one's wealth in a country in which, during when I was chatting away to the audience and asking them the reign of the Tories, the number of people below the poverty line went from three million to 13 million can only shouted out "It's nigger free." Having informed the beckler make poor people angry. The that he was obviously at the haves cannot blame the havenots for coveting their oxen. Refreshing to see over-

privileged posh sporty blokes getting their comeuppance. This week, an élite Cambridge University drinking club got a severe wrist-slap after a débâcle at a party in a hotel during which male students vomited (aren't they just so

predictable when they've had a drink?), wrecked furniture and sexually harassed waitresses. This club, (surprise, surprise) excludes women and the event, it would seem, reflects the behaviour of, sporting students the country over. It seems a shame that in many cases, physical provess inevitably means yobbishness and out-of-control behaviour. Let's do our best to prevent. these boys becoming part of the ruling élite; you can be Sure that among the vomit and broken tables were a couple of potential Tory MPs.

Following the sentencing this week of the "boys" since raped the Austrian tourist, it's perhaps time to reassess our attitude towards adolescents who carry out this sort of appalling crime. To all intents and purposes, that attack was made a group of mean if was made all the more frightening by the fact that kits that age will do almost anything that the peer group demands for fear of looking foolist. Having had one or two runs in welf. with groups of boy men, I think that it is time we realised they are a dangerous group who are getting physically stronger and much less easier

to control as each year passe

### Call me Cookie Everyone in the new Cabinet will

be on first-name terms. Which means, of course, that they will all get nicknames...

### david aaronovitch

t has been reported this week that the Foreign Secretary, Mr Robin Cook (henceforth to be known only as Robin), is to circulate those who lie abroad for their country with a special video, introducing himself and his policies. Previously they only received a short note reading something like "Dear colleague. My name s Malcolm. I'm another Tory. I want Britain to be at the heart

of Europe, Cheers,' But this new endeavour is not to be some Majorish lecture delivered to the camera. The Cook Report (as it is not called) is apparently to be filmed under the supervision of movie mogul. David Puttnam. There will be thrills, tears and emotion. One rumour even suggests that Mel Gibson - fresh from his triumph over the Scottish accent in Braveheart - will play the part of the MP for Livingston.

I am in favour of this bold use of technology. Indeed I believe that the principle should be extended. Enterprising college leavers, for example, should employ media students to create video CVs for them, using every visual artifice to enhance their images in the minds of potential employers. Filmed revising for their exams, engaging their fellows in witty conversation, or undertaking voluntary work among the lepers of the East Indies (as recreated in a photographer's studio in Chiswick), jobseekers could

interview might afford. out a lot of silly talk and exhausting dancing had one been able to put putative inamorati in the picture (so to speak), with a soft-focus tape advertising one's gentleness, sensuality and

expect to make a far better

impression than mere

unexpected good looks? But Robin's move is only one of several exciting initiatives. The other main one is the decision that everyone in the Cabinet will call each other by their first names. Which means, of course, that they will all get nicknames. Almost any group of sympathetic British people - of whatever age and class - when thrown together will begin to rechristen each other. Go and watch a park football match, and you will hear the players cursing each other using monikers that

parents never invented. "Del! Del!" "On me head, Gal!" "Ferret! Man on!" serenity about William Hague that

seems as fixed as his

boyish smile. It may

owe much to his habit of

descending into a trance-like

state for 20 minutes every day

in pursuit of his hobby of tran-

scendental meditation. Lately, one might suspect a more pro-saic reason – his beautiful and well-connected fiancée, Ffion

It is a union that might, as

the cliché goes, have been made in heaven. After electri-

fying the Conservative confer-

ence at the age of 16, Hague rises effortlessly through the party to become Secretary of State for Wales at 34. As the

general election approaches and a Tory defeat is on the cards, he is the bookies'

favourite to be the next party

leader. He lacks only one vital

Enter, just two months before polling day, Miss Jenk-

ins. The stunned faces of

friends who thought the boy

Hague would never get hitched

are swiftly rearranged into con-gratulatory smiles. It turns out

that the couple have been dat-ing secretly for four months.

They have just got engaged, so it is time to go public.

The cynics are cruel.

William and Ffion are clearly

smitten with one another, and

the timing is just a happy coin-cidence. All those snide com-

ments about Hague being a confirmed bachelor - that was

just sour grapes by people on

whom Lady Luck has not smiled so brightly. After all, he

has had plenty of girlfriends in

the past, including a House of

Commons secretary and a

glamorous public relations

And yet, if he were to have

constructed an Identikit pic-

ture of his ideal partner, of the

woman best suited to helping

him on the next staging post of

his political career, she would have looked remarkably like

Ffion Jenkins. Now that battle

for the Tory leadership has

been joined in earnest, his

impending nuptials - some-

time next year, say friends -

are all the more important for

Another tale has it that Hague

was initiated in a churchyard in

Abergele.

attribute - a wife at his side.

Jenkins.

So we can expect Jacko for the new Home Secretary, Robbo for the defence supremo. Dobbo (which has the advantage of conveying a certain onomatopoeic truth) for the guardian of the nation's health.

There will be names ending in -za, as in Prezza, and -ie, as in Cookie and Smithie. Derry Irvine will be Del, Blunkers will run education, Hattie and Mags will swap dormitory stories with Shorty. I just hope that they will call the Chief Secretary to the Treasury "Darling".

Some will object. Last year, a book edited by the reactionary gourmand Digby Anderson (yet another rightwing pundit who woke up last Friday to find his purchase on public attention reduced to nearly nothing) contained fulminations by several academics against such abominations as the wearing of "gym clothes" in bank queues and the sexual aggressiveness suggested by

the use of leggings.
One remarked that the fashion for first-name terms had eroded the respect necessary for relationships such as that between bank manager and client and (one imagines) between Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Agriculture (Jacko, or Jacksie?).

But this - as is usual with the authoritarian right confuses the respect due to the position with that earned by the man. No one in the Labour Party is likely to use "Gordon" lightly, or to invest them with less significance than "Prime Minister" or "Chancellor".

I would go further. Tony has now become a name of talismanic power, not just a christian name. Like Oscar or Caesar, it may well be destined to transcend its nameliness and become a noun - in this case referring to the leader of the Labour Party. We can look forward to 2010, when Peter Mandelson battles it out with Alan Sugar's son and Richard Branson's daughter to

become Labour's new Tony. I have little doubt that when he does so, every single member of the Labour Party will receive a CD-Rom directed by Quentin Tarantino.

# The dream ticket Hague won't change his mind on

by Kathy Marks and Tony Heath



### It is sometimes said that couples grow to resemble one another, like pets and their owners. William and Ffion seem to have reached that apotheosis already

While the relationship was lished, there they were with ably the most effective backstill secret, he almost gave the their wavy blonde hair - his scratching organisation out-Hague's promotion to the Cabinet led to him meeting Miss Jenkins, a 28-year-old Day party early, he announced to Welsh Office Day officials that he was off to dinner with "Jolly Jenkins". Once it was public. Hague said that they had been so intent on dis-

that apotheosis of together-

ness already. When the first

photographs of them were pub-

senior civil servant in the Welsh Office. She was until recently his assistant private secretary. Love blossomed, so the story cretion that they had not goes, after Hague enlisted her help to teach him the words of dared risk shopping together for an engagement ring. Love is not always a fairytale, Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (Land of My Fathers). He had been anxand can exact casualties along the way. Miss Jenkins was ious not to repeat the mistake of his predecessor, John Redobliged to break the news of the

wood, who was caught merely mouthing the Welsh national whirlwind romance to her former boyfriend, Darran Phillips, anthem at an official function. a financial adviser with a con-It was during these singing vertible Mercedes. It is sometimes said that coulessons that a mutual professional admiration turned perples grow to resemble one sonal. According to one story, the tuition took place on a another, in the same way as pets and their owners. William windy hillside in north Wales. and Flion seem to have reached

game away on one occasion fetchingly receding of course, side of Sicily". hers luxuriously he and their flawless features, their similar shy smiles.

Alan Duncan MP, a close friend of Hague's, described Miss Jenkins as an "absolute cracker". She is also regarded as formidably intelligent. Equally significantly, perhaps, she has provided her Yorkshire-born fiancé with an entrée to Welsh high societythe "crachach", as it is quaintly known.

The term, which translates as "petty gentry, conceited upstarts and snobs", refers to the network of influential Welsh-speaking families who run Wales's public bodies. quangos and institutions. In less polite circles, they are known as the Taffia. They make up the elite of Welsh public life - a strata of society described

Davies, Controller of BBC Wales and a governor of the Welsh College of Music and Drama. There is Wynford Evans, chairman of the Bank of Wales and former chairman of South Wales Electricity, not forgetting, of course, Emyr Jenkins, father of the future Mrs Hague, who is chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales, former director of the National Eisteddfod and an elder of the Crwys Presbyterian Church of Wales.

It is from these circles that Miss Jenkins hails. The couple have different backgrounds, although they converged later on. Hague, son of a business-man who runs a soft drinks firm, had a comprehensive education, while she went to a leading Welsh public school. by Kim Howells MP as "prob- Both are Oxford graduates.

pital after an evening of high spirits led to her being acci-dentally stabbed in the leg by a ceremonial sword. While Miss Jenkins pursued

a career in the civil service, Hague became an MP at 27, going on to become parliamentary private secretary to Norman Lamont and then pensions minister.

His betrothal represented the high point of his acceptance by Welsh society. When he was appointed, he knew how difficult it was for Welsh secretaries from England to be taken seri-

ously in the principality.

Previous incumbents had been lampooned as English overlords who spent as little time as possible across the Severn. The Labour MP. John Morris, a former Welsh secretary himself, poured scorn on the choice of Hague to fill in for Redwood after the lat-ter resigned to fight John Major for the leadership. "Not since Caligula made his horse a senator has such a ridiculous appointment been made," said Morris.

ut Hague was determined to clasp Wales to his bosom. He regularly journeyed between Westmin-ster, his Yorkshire constituency and his new fiefdom - a 1,000mile circuit that became known

as The Hague Triangle.

He visited hospitals and factories, climbed Mount Snowdon and strode the Pembrokeshire coastal path, staying in modest bed and breakfasts. He signed a deal with a South Korean electronics company that created thousands of new jobs. He even supported the Welsh rugby

team against England. With the Conservative defeat in the election, events have moved on and, for Hague, the stakes may be higher. If he persuades fellow Tory MPs to skip a generation and elect a youthful leader to lead them back from the wilderness, Wales will cease to figure so large in his life. If he fails in his ambitions, he is likely to secure a front-rank post in the Shadow Cabinet, which could be a different portfolio.

went on to a degree in Welsh at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth; he to a high-flychampagne to run for the leadership together. By the next morning, Hague had changed his mind. But while he may have ditched the political dream ticket, the fiancée of his the Welsh Society at Oxford dreams seems likely to remain

### William the Conqueror?

Miss Jenkins studied English at

Jesus College; Hague gained a first in politics, philosophy and economics from Magdalen. She

ing job with McKinsey, the

Ffion is described by friends

as a quiet, studious woman

who came out of her shell at

university. Fellow members of

recall her being taken to hos-

management consultants.

66 WE NEED A NEW BRAND OF LEADERSHIP TO TRANSFORM A DEFEATED, Witham congret DIVIDED to be done to heal the Tories wounds and PARTY restore them to power. And why he's the best man INTO A VICTORIOUS CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT. ??

A useful pair of sunglasses for those dazzled by the glare of a new political dawn.

### French lessons in school runs

of the Deputy Prime Minister really wants to tackle the problem of grid-lock, he could usefully start by talking to his boss. The most heart-warming images of the week were the Blair family moving house.

We have children of similar ages to the Blair-lettes, and are about to undergo the same trauma, even if our destination is not as exalted as theirs. But everyone has been through it. Even if you hire those incredibly efficient and muscular people who pack everything in cardboard cartons, you still can't fit it all in. Someone's most precious possession goes missing, and you can never understand what all that stuff

the kids are carrying actually is. No wonder that Mrs B might have lost the plot for a moment and forgotten that she is on show every minute of the day; the now famous photograph is etched on the national memory and has endeared her to us. The nation breathed a sigh of relief - this is no Hillary Clinton - steelyeyed and perfectly turned out on all occasions. She's just like us, really.

But the Blairs, like every other family with school-age children, face a profound and agonising decision about school having decided where it is - to drive or not to drive? In their case, I suspect the decito drive? In their case, I suspect the decision was taken out of their hands by the security people, and quite rightly. But for most of us it's less clear-cut. We can't keep our children at home. Nor can we, unless Mr Blunkett turns out to be Merim the Magician in disguise, expect that all our children will be able to go to a neighbourhood school in walking distance of our front doors. This is especially unrealistic in rural areas, and in any event, as we move on average once every seven years, the likelihood is that even if we do



**Trevor Phillips** The Blairs, like every other

family, face an agonising decision about school: to drive or not to drive?

have an acceptable local school that will take our children, they won't be there for their whole school careers.

Yet we know that school traffic has doubled in the past 20 years. It now adds between 10 and 20 per cent to the peaktime volume of traffic in most cities; and it also affects the countryside too, where buses are scarce. And the numbers are set to rise. But the traffic experts say that a 7 per cent reduction in traffic volumes could make all the difference.

In fact, my colleagues at London Weekend Television recently conducted a sim-ple but telling experiment. They filmed a suburban roundábout at 8am in two suc-

cessive weeks. The first week it was jammed solid. The second week, it was almost empty, and the traffic sped through. The second week was, of course, half-term. The point is that it may only take a small change to transform the situation - a rattlesnake with its final inch removed is a completely new proposition. The geme will not go back in the bottle, however, with two out of three families

now owning cars, the days of the long walk to school or the school bus are over. As ever, the Americans are ahead of us on this. Especially in California, where families have embraced car-pooling with a vengeance. There are companies set up to organise rotas. You can even find partners on the Internet; pages urge you to save money, beat the stress and cut down on pollution. You also get to use special lanes. But there's a limit - trying to co-ordinate with your own family is hard enough, without adding anyone

else's early-morning confusion to the mix. The French, typically, disdain this sort of shambles and have adopted a nationally directed solution. In the UK, because of the historic control of schools by local authorities, every school in each area usually has the same holidays. There, they stagger holidays by designating every school in the country un, deax or trois. Les uns begin their Easter holidays, for example, two weeks after les deux, and les trois

This means that for a large part of the year only a third or two-thirds of the cars that disrupt the morning and afternoon traffic need to be on the roads. It may not

start two weeks after that.



be as convenient for teachers; but it seems to work. There could be an addi-

tional boon. Spreading the holiday weeks across the year might reduce the demand for foreign vacations in specific weeks, and force travel companies to bang down their preposterous prices. This is the sort of dirigiste, no-nonsense, non-ideological answer that ought to appeal to No 10 -New Labour, New Timetable.

While Mr Prescott is talking to his boss about traffic, he might also have another word about the new government's free on Cup Final Day.

make-up. Any Prime Minister with a landslide majority and the chutzpah to give Tony Banks a job is possibly beyond criticism, but I hope that the colour in this administration won't be restricted to the bright hues of its women members' skirts. Pleased as I am to see the gentle ascent of Mr Paul Boateng to a junior minister's Mondeo, it's disappointing that

the assiduous and clever Leicester East MP Keith Vaz could not also find a place in government, despite having been the shadow minister for urban affairs. His crusade on behalf of the victims of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International débâcle was admirable, and for those of

us interested in the inner cities, he was beginning to develop something that looked like an imaginative approach to regeneration. He would have been an asset to Mr Prescott's team.

I think that my colleague Donald Macintyre and I can claim to have played a part in the most surprising min-isterial appointment of all – that of Tony Banks. Macin-tyre and I jointly host Crosstalk, a Sunday Junchtime political

talk show, on which Banks is a regular performer. Week after week we have tried to tempt the MP for West Ham to criticise the Blairite ascendancy in his party. Week after week he has refused the bait. Though towards the end the strain was showing we had to spray Banks with cold water after one particularly provocative interview with Jack Straw - his loyalty never wavered. He now has his reward. I'm sure that he would like to know that I will be

# business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

# BZW turmoil claims another senior scalp

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

The turmoil at BZW since its highly paid chief executive, Bill Harrison, swept into the em-battled investment bank last year has claimed another senior scalp. According to an internal memo, the future of Michael Hughes, head of economics and strategy, is currently "under discussion" after the dismemberment of his department and an apparent coup to remove

him.
Mr Hughes said yesterday he was discussing a new role within the group, but well-placed insiders cast doubt on his future after a row over how economics and strategy should fit into the bank's new pan-European structure. It is understood that a group of his colleagues who had been offered jobs at rival Salomon Brothers said they would only stay at BZW on condition that Mr Hughes went.

Best known for the highly regarded BZW Equity-Gilt study he produces every year, Mr Hughes has been with the company for more than 20 years, since long before De Zoete & Bevan was acquired by Barclays 10 years ago.

His removal comes at a time of crisis for the company after ket operations. The changes, a sharp fall in profits last year against a backdrop of rising returns from other investment company's economists and banks. Since the New Year, 17 strategists are now directly an-

analysts have left BZW's equi-swerable to its global heads of ties operation although the firm claims it has replaced the leavers with 25 new recruits. Morale is reported to be at rock bottom amid widespread speculation that the firm's parent, Barclays, is seeking offers for

At the heart of BZW's probiems lies its move to Canary Wharf in London's Docklands from its present headquarters in the City. In a bid to maintain employees' loyalty during the staggered transfer, which has already seen some departments head east, a generous new system of sabatticals is understood to have been introduced.

Part of the blame for the high staff turnover in recent months has been a shift to a much more uncompromising performance culture. According to a spokesman: There was a change of policy on bonuses this year. People who performed well got very good packages indeed. Others did not. There was a big differential this year."

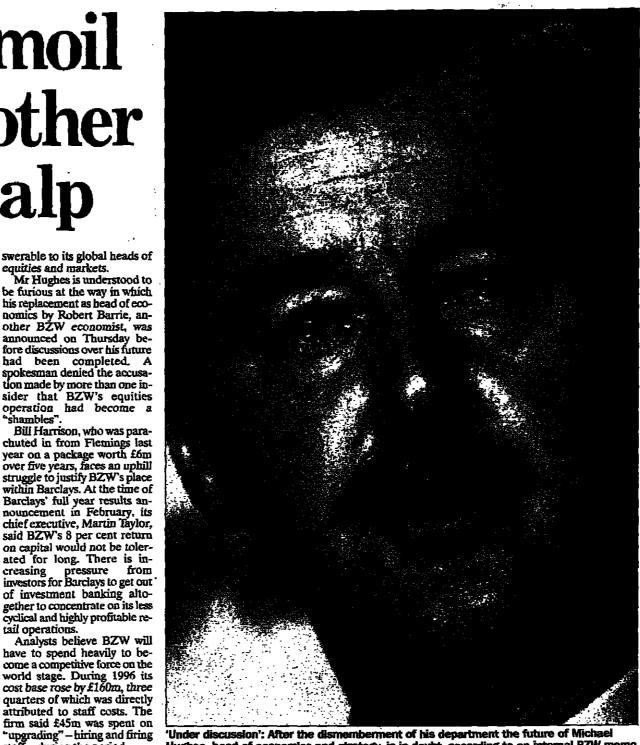
Until recently Mr Hughes headed a separate economics and strategy function that was viewed with distrust by some as a distinct fiefdom alongside BZW's equities and bond marwhich have left Mr Hughes in search of a role, mean the

equities and markets.

Mr Hughes is understood to be furious at the way in which his replacement as head of economics by Robert Barrie, another BZW economist, was announced on Thursday before discussions over his future had been completed. A spokesman denied the accusation made by more than one insider that BZW's equities

Bill Harrison, who was parachuted in from Flemings last year on a package worth fom over five years, faces an uphill struggle to justify BZW's place within Barclays. At the time of Barclays' full year results announcement in February, its chief executive, Martin Taylor, said BZW's 8 per cent return on capital would not be tolerated for long. There is increasing pressure from investors for Barclays to get out of investment banking altogether to concentrate on its less cyclical and highly profitable re-

tail operations. Analysts believe BZW will have to spend heavily to become a competitive force on the world stage. During 1996 its cost base rose by £160m, three quarters of which was directly attributed to staff costs. The firm said £45m was spent on "upgrading" - hiring and firing staff - during the period.



# Siebe bid may spark battle for APV

Magnus Grimond

Stock market dealers were yesterday anticipating a possible bid tussle for APV after the rival Siebe engineering group launched an agreed £331m offer which would create the world's leading supplier of process control systems for the food, drink and pharma-

ceutical industries.

APV's shares, which were 66p before it first revealed an approach at the end of April, soared 17p to 106.5p yesterday, just above the Siebe bid terms. Siebe is offering 0.10955 of its own shares for every one in APV, valuing the latter at just above 106p after the Siebe price rose 11.5p to 970p yesterday. Siebe is shaving around £3.5m off its bid costs by underwriting 46 per cent of 97.5p cash alternative from its own

resources.

APV announced it had received a second "indication of interest" just two days after Siebe's approach and analysts were vesterday keeping an open mind as to whether a rival would make a counter offer. GEA, a German food processing machinery company which announces its results on Monday, refused to rule itself out of the running, although European competition concerns may prove a constraint. Speculation was also rife yesterday about the inten-tions of FMC, a big US food conglomerate.

Paul Compton of brokers Merrill Lynch suggested there was still a slim chance of a rival offer. "It might not be all over, but I think it probably is", he said.

There was a general wel-come from analysts for the Siebe deal, which comes 11 years after it mounted an earlier takeover attempt on APV. Describing it as a "clip on acquisition" which would be integrated with the Foxboro control systems business, Allen Yurko, Siebe's chief executive. said it offered "clear, no nonsense, up-front synergy benewhich will enhance

many as 1,000, with most of the losses coming outside the UK and administrative functions. APV's chief executive, Neil Prench, is being kept on for at least the transition period, but he could be in line for a pay-off of around £600,000 if he

APV has been struggling for years and Siebe is now aiming to raise last year's 3.5 per cent margins to 10 per cent over the next two to three years, implying around £50m of cost savings are in prospect. But Mr. Yorko said the main ben-Mr Yurko said the main benefits would come from cross



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**Barrie Stephens: Siebe** chairman unlocks growth

selling Siebe's Intelligent Automation process control system, which is now close to overtaking Honeywell as the market leader in this sector, through APV's 1,000 strong sales force operating in 40 countries. Foxboro already has around 1,000 sales staff.

APV will give the group a commanding 11 to 12 per cent share of the market for control systems in the food, drink and pharmaceutical industries, well ahead of 9 per cent share held by Tetra-Laval of Sweden. The purchase will aso fill in another piece of Siebe's product portfolio, which already comholder value "right out of the three slots in markets ranging £330m in the year to the end of | nal plan to shed 500 jobs might through power and water util-

### Amstrad wins £57m damages against US supplier

Michael Harrison

Amstrad, the electronics company founded by Alan Sugar, was yesterday awarded damages in the High Court of £57.5m against the world's biggest manufacturer of computer disk drives

The award against Seagate Technology of California could ultimately reach nearly £100m. once interest is included - equal to nearly a third of Amstrad's

The court accepted Amstrad's claim that faulty disk drives supplied by Seagate had wrecked its attempt to enter the business computer market and destroyed its reputation as a se-

David Gold of lawyers Herbert Smith, who represented award. Amstrad during the long-runing had completely vindicated Mr Sugar, adding: "Not supris-

An Amstrad spokesman added that the award would go some way towards repaying its shareholders. Amstrad's cash mountain already stands at £132m and could reach nearly £232m depending on the amount of interest added to the heard in California later this

However, Seagate immedining legal action, said the rul- ately announced that it would appeal against the ruling. Its chairman, Al Shugart, said: "We were shocked an appalled at the court's decision.

The High Court ruling is likely to strengthen Amstrad's case in a similar claim it is bring-ing against Western Digital Corporation, another California-based supplier of disk drives. The action is due to be

Amstrad began its case against Seagate in 1992 al-though the claim dates back to subsequently be found. "The 1989. It was finally heard in the disks did not work properly for a £15m loss on tunbrover of High Court between April and a long time and no one knew July last year.

The case centred around disk drives supplied by Seagate for the Amstrad 2386 - the machine with which Mr Sugar planned to conquer the business PC market in the way he had with cheap PCs aimed at

Mr Gold said that the fault lay in the way the disk drives

back into the market. Seagate employs 87,000 people and has a market value of 12.5bn. It made an after-tax profit of \$213m on sales of \$8.5bn in the year ended last

But because the machines

were out in the market place

the reputation of Amstrad was

being destroyed and it never got

Amstrad, by contrast, made

blocks". He said APV's origipossibly be increased to as ities to pulp and paper.

a share, a 16 per cent discount trolled by C&W with a 59 per made his maiden appearance in

Some analysts believe a deal

The problem is China Unicom does not have the money to take a big stake in Hongkong Telecom, unless it can find financing

### turnover and 40 per cent of its ingly, he is a very happy man

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

Far-reaching changes to the capital structure of Lloyd's of London were recommended vesterday in a report by KPMG, the accounting and consultancy firm.

The study, commissioned by an association of the insurance market's corporate investors, recommended abandoning the traditional annual venture system. Abolishing the system, which forces syndicates to raise fresh capital each year to support underwriting, could save £117m a year - a tenth of last year's profits at Lloyd's.

Commenting on the KPMG report. Antony Haynes, chairman of the Lloyd's Corporate Capital Association, said: "The evidence contained within KPMG's independent report clearly speaks for itself. Both traditional names and corporate capital providers are seeing a substantial part of their underwriting returns being eroded by a market practice of the annual venture which is not only costly.

tiveness of Lloyd's."

Lloyd's annual venture

the debate about the desirability since they were admitted in 1994

Both names and corporate being eroded 9

of the market's underwriting ca-

ional names are squeezed out.
According to KPMG, the investors are in favour of mov-

of new-style corporate investors who have flooded the market and now represent 44 per cent

capital providers see their returns

pacity. That share is expected to rise above half this year as tradit-

direct costs of the so-called annual venture represent a significant proportion of a member of Lloyd's likely underwriting return, especially for traditional names. Corporate

ing the international competi- ing to a permanent capital structure at Lloyd's rather than KPMG's conclusions focus on the current annual system.

The annual venture has been preferred by traditional names in the past because it allows individual investors to move funds around Lloyd's, changing syndicates as and when they wished. It has also been claimed that the traditional annual system puts pressure on underwriters to perform.

As well as the direct costs incurred by the annual venture system, the KPMG report pointed to several indirect, opportunity costs which were damaging the competitiveness of the market. Permanent capital, the report said, would make Lloyd's a better match for conventional insurance companies by offering clients multi-year contracts and greater flexibility in meeting the requirements of overseas

regulators.
The KPMG report comes shortly before Lloyd's publishes the conclusions of a number of working parties set up to discuss its future. The results of those working parties are expected

### KPMG calls for end of Telecom rumours boost Hong Kong market

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

Share trading in Hong Kong went into overdrive vesterday despite hopes for a deal be-tween the Cable & Wireless (C&W) controlled Hongkong Telecom and a well-placed Chinese telecommunications part-

ner failing to materialise.
Instead of a Chinese partner emerging for Hongkong Telecom, the Chinese governmentcontrolled Citic Pacific sold its 7.74 per cent stake in the comoany at a knock-down price to the state-run China Everbright industrial conglomerate.

Volume trading on the Hong

heavy, driving the blue chip Hang Seng Index to 14,075 points at one stage. The index finally closed 190.5 points up, at an all-time high of 13,930.8.

The intensity of market rumours caused Hongkong Tele-

Kong stock market was very

com's shares to be suspended for most of yesterday's trading. Dealings resumed just before the close, but were greeted by a flurry of sell orders which wiped 3 per cent of the company's share price to HK\$14.50.

However, investors took a more favourable view of Citic Pacific, China's biggest overseas investment company. Despite the low sale price of HK\$12.50

move was seen as providing Citic Pacific with the funds for investments with better potential. Citic's shares gained 90 cents to HK44.4. Brian Smith, C&W chairman,

issued a brief statement saying that the proposed investment "demonstrates continued confidence in Hongkong Telecom and Hong Kong through the 1997 transition and beyond". The statement described Éverbright. which is not listed on the local stock exchange, as "a significant enterprise under the leadership of [China's] State Council". Hongkong Telecom, con-

several regional governments, Citic Pacific's parent company and the Ministry of Electronics. The deal was seen as a powerful piece of political insurance for the colony's former monopoly telephone company, which is vulnerable because of

upwards in anticipation of a deal

with China Unicom, China's

second telecommunications

network operator, owned by

its British ownership.
On Thursday Dick Brown, C&W's new chief executive, on very favourable terms.

on the pre-suspension price, the cent stake and capitalised at the colony for the annual results more than £12.3bn, is one of the which fuelled speculation that colony's largest companies. Its he was in town to conclude a share price has been spiralling deal with China Unicom.

may still be possible or that C&W might be able to persuade China's powerful Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) to enter into a strategic alliance. If this does not materialise then analysts believe that Hongkong Telecom's share price will be knocked for six.

### Mowlam in Ulster electricity row

Ireland secretary, was yesterday drawn into the row between Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) and its regulator over price cuts for cus-Chris writes tomers, Godsmark.

Patrick Haren, NIE chief executive, wrote to Ms Mowlam to put the company's case after Douglas McIldoon. revenues should drop by 27 per tends to have."

over price controls. Mr Haren said it was unclear whether Ms the MMC's findings. Mowlan had the power to override the regulator. "We want to try to make sure she understands the issue," he added.

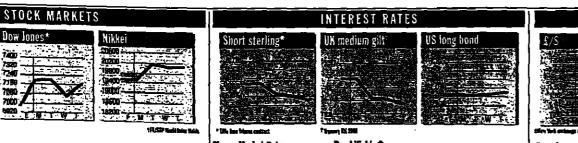
Marjorie Mowlam, Northern the regulator, unexpectedly cent from April, compared Ireland secretary, was yester-rejected the Monopolies and with 31 per cent proposed by Mergers Commission's advice the watchdog. It was the first over price controls. Mr Haren time a regulator had rejected

Mr Haren reiterated that NIE would take the regulator to the High Court if he tried to impose tougher price cuts. Our legal advice says he does-The MMC had said NIE's n't have the discretion he pre-

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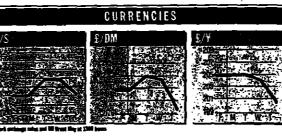
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### Skills shortage hits builders

Michael Harrison

Building employers yesterday called on the Government to provide more funding for youth training amid fears that worsening skills shortages could throw the industry's recovery off track.

According to the Construction Confederation's latest quarterly trends survey, nearly two thirds of firms now report difficulty in hiring bricklayers while four in 10 report shortages of plasterers, carpenters and

Sir Martin Laing, president-designate of the confederation, said that overall there had been a big improvement in business optimism with output and trading prospects both up strongly.
However, he added: "The one cloud on the horizon is the

growing evidence of skills shortages. This makes it crucially important that the industry rapidly builds up training programmes which will deliver the skilled workers we shall need into the foresecable future."

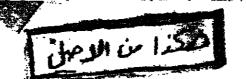
Sir Martin said he was mak-

the Department of Education and Employment to secure a new Youth in Construction Training Scheme providing places for an additional 10,000

young people. The survey shows a marked rise in activity with output forecast to rise by 3 per cent a year for the remainder of this decade. The number of companies reporting success in tendering is also up while tender prices and margins are increasing.

The balance of firms reporting an increase in output compared with the previous quarter was 37 per cent against a figure of 16 per cent in the last survey. The only region to report a decline was London.

Meanwhile, a balance of 53 per cent of firms expect output to rise in the coming 12 months while 43 per cent expect to take on more employees. The proportion of contractors working at or near to full capacity is more or less unchanged on the previous quarter at 34 per cent.



Months Characterist & Characterist

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### Why BT should not be given the keys to the City

abour is falling into a deep and well-signposted trap by reviving its plans to release British Telecom early from the ban on offering broadcast entertainment. Both in principle and in practice, this is a mistaken

ness is one thing; for government to enter into "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" understandings with individual companies is quite another. This is favour for a favour government and as such it is both

unfair and potentially corrupt.

If Tony Blair and his team are going to favour one set of commercial interests (his main business cronies already seem very visible) over another, he's going to find the good will that business as whole presently has for the new administration dissolving before his eyes.

The function of government is to create a framework of public policy for society, individuals and businesses to operate in. Setting up sweet heart deals with individual companies, however well intentioned the aim, only undermines that purpose.

Ouite apart from these points of principle, however, there are also some very practical reasons for believing the proposed deal with BT to be flawed. Here's why. Let's begin by asking what Labour proposes

to give away and what it can realistically expect

casicr to answer. BT has been lobbying the government for permission to broadcast TV down its telephone lines for years.

Despite some sympathy for its position, this has been resisted on the grounds that to lift the ban early would be a breach of the Government's commitment to the cable industry. Cable has been investing billions in advanced fibre optic networks on the expectation that its privilege of being able to in offer both broadcast TV and telephony is protected at

least until 2001 and possibly longer. What Labour plans to do, provided BT delivers on its side of the bargain, is progressively phase out this advantage from next year onwards, ending it altogether in 2001 when BT will be allowed to compete on an entirely equal footing.

This would be a concession of considerable importance to BT, the effect of which might be to halt any further cable investment in its tracks. Without its present competitive advantage over BT, cable may feel disinclined to complete the rest of the network. While it is true enough that the cable companies are a shower, having failed largely to capitalise on the opportunity they have been given, few would think it a good thing if all cable investment now came to a halt.

This is more especially the case, since whatever Labour thinks it has agreed with

every household in Britain to the super-highway.

Actually, there seems to be some confusion over what BT's side of the bargain is. The deal agreed by Tony Blair at the Labour Party conference two years ago was that in return BT would connect schools, hospitals and libraries. The total cost of this quite limited initiative would not be much more than £60m. Then there was also a vague promise by BT to do its best to develop a nationwide broadband network". That would be much

more costly – anything up to £15bn.

If there ever was a BT blue print for such an ambitious national enterprise, it will now be gathering dust in some forgotten vault. BT has long since moved on. Its recent linkup with BSkyB is deliberately set up as an alternative to such investment, and for the time being this venture provides all the interactivity BT wants. Having now linked up with the dominant supplier of subscription TV, its old network, outdated though it might be, will be sufficient for most purposes.

In other words, it doesn't look as if this very considerable regulatory concession is going to buy the Government very much at all. Against the £60m of investment in schools, libraries and hospitals, the Government must take into account the possibility of a very considerable downside.

gether. Second, there is a strengthening of BT's monopoly position in the market, possibly in conjunction with that other great monopolist. BSkyB. Is this what Labour really wants? Our digital future dominated by a combination of BT and BSkyB, and dominated, moreover, via an old technology, out of date, copper wired network?

So here's a bit of advice to New Labour. Never put your trust, in a monopoly. They may seem to promise the earth but in truth they offer neither progress nor value. Don't drift back to the bankrupt corporatist values of the 1970s. They didn't work then, and they won't work now. To the extent that BT is now one of Britain's world class companies that we would all wish to support and nurture, it is because of competition and deregulation, not despite it. There may be a lot wrong with the present market driven approach to development of the super-highway, but giving BT and its allies the earth is not the answer.

Like many in the City, I'm waiting with some apprehension to see what sort of approach Margaret Beckett and her new team at the Department of Trade and Industry are going to adopt on mergers. Philosophically, I suspect, they'd quite like to give away and what it can realistically expect in return. The first part of this question is the in an alternative by spending £15bn wiring up

opposition would lead you to that view. Mrs Beckett was herself once very keen on the idea of reversing the public interest test, so that companies be required to prove their takeovers are in the public interest, rather than merely demonstrate they are not against it. You don't need to know much about these matters to realise such an approach would effectively have spelt the end of the mergers and acquisitions game.

vay or the other. As for Nigel Griffiths, the minister put directly in charge of competition policy, he used to be in favour of referring virtually everything to the MMC when in opposition, though admittedly this was a stance appar-ently dictated as much by his desire to rub-bish government decision making across the board as anything else.

These things are impossible to prove one

Even so, none of this bodes well for City corporate financiers. They'll just have to hope that the wiser counsel of New Labour eventually prevails. Of this, there is a reasonably good chance. Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading has been charged by Mr Blair with conducting a review of most aspects of competition policy. And though Labour will want to oughen up the public interest tests a little, giving much greater priority to employment ssues, root and branch reform of mergers

French election

seen as crucial

### BT rules out spending £15bn on cable network

Chris Godsmark and Cathy Newman

British Telecom yesterday ruled out investing £15hn to build a national information superhighway if the Government an- he anticipated BT developing "a be a single superhighway," said ndunced an early end to broadband communications restrictions banning the phones Giant from broadcasting enterinment down its local network.

The comments came after the new National Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, insisted that Labour was as committed as homes. ever to its controversial "deal" with BT, where it would consider it was no longer considering exan early end to the broadcasting ban if the company fulfilled its pledge to provide schools, hospitals and libraries with free high-capacity fibre-optic cable connections.

Mr Smith also said he exearlier this week with The InHeritage minister's hopes for fibreoptic superhighway overtaken by events, says telecom giant

network throughout the country" going far beyond the original pledge to lay cables to schools. BT has previously claimed it would cost £15bn to extend the superhighway to

The company said yesterday tending its fibre network beyond local telephone exchanges to homes, where low capacity copper wire was mostly used, claiming the issue had been

transformed by new technology. "The idea of suddenly laying pected BT to move to extend the fibre across the whole country, information superhighway which would mean-going back across the UK. In an interview to the £15bn investment conwhich would mean-going back

Under the present rules BT is prevented from broadcasting live entertainment down its core phone network until at least 2001, when the ban would be reviewed. Labour's policy, modelled on recommendations from a Commons select committee report three years ago, said the ban could disappear from 1998, seven years after the start of each cable franchise.

Several cable operators were yesterday disappointed, though not surprised, by Mr Smith's latest overture. Steve Wagner, group managing director of NTL said he had already written to Mr Smith and hoped to cept, just ain't on any more. No be involved in the any discus-

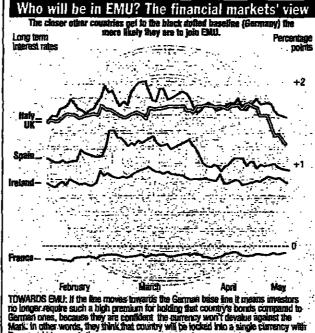
proposed talks would, I hope, also include members of the cable industry.

Other cable groups also doubted BT's commitment to extend its fibre network. Graham Wallace, chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, accused BT of wanting to destabilise the cable companies. "It's an enormous threat if BT were to talk to customers about delivering broadcast services but they haven't got close to doing that. They are making a lot of noise about it though. Analysts said removing the

broadcasting ban early could prejudice the cable company's investment plans. Mathew Horsman, from stockbrokers Henderson Crossthwaite, said the move would be ill-advised: "It would clearly be unfair to the cable operators who based their business plans on the assumption that BT would be kept out of the market until 2001. Any the build-out of cable.

BT can point with some justification to technological changes which have dramatically increased the amount of information it can send down its local copper wire network, a form of technology which dates back to the turn of the century. An interactive trial in Colchester and Ipswich last year, involving 2,500 homes, offered feature films and home shopping services by compressing television signals into digital information. The picture quality was similar to the VHS video standard.

Since the trial more advanced forms of digital compression have emerged, though BT would still need to spend billions of pounds to provide a national service. The investment would upgrade part of the local network, extending fibre to the street corner but leaving the final copper element



Germany in ten year's time.

AWAY FROM EMIL: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will trave bigiter inflation, and that there is a tak of a future devaluation against the Mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The believedent asked analysis from:
Nikto Europe, Palus Webser, Allik Avere, IP Morgan, Deutsche Mergan Granfell
Salomas Beethers, Goldman Sacies, HSRC Fames Capel, UBS
what prebability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time: \_\_\_\_\_ 58% Probability EMili Is delayed: . . . . (24% last week) Probability EMU never happens:

week, but it seems to have done nothing to improve the likeliebood of economic and monetary union going ahead on time. Talking yesterday on the 49th anniversary of the Schuman declaration which launched the great European project, our panel continued to regard the outcome of the French elections as far more important to the fu-Alison Cottrell of Paine Web-

Magnus Grimond

Labour's historic decision to give

the Bank of England effective

control over interest rates may

have made waves in Britain this

er summed up the likely effects of the Chancellor, Gordon Brown's, cessation of control over monetary policy. "If it helps the European brotherhood, then that helps make EMU more likely, but if a centre left government [is returned in France] then it becomes irrelevanL

Sachs was one of several who

move to cut the political bonds of the Bank of England was not yet sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Maastricht

With the consensus still that the UK will not join in the first wave in 1999, the attention of our pundits remains firmly focused on France, where opinion polls suggest the gap between right and left has narrowed to almost nothing. The received wisdom is that a victory for the socialists could delay EMU as the Germans would not accede to their terms, but the picture is far from clear cut.

On the plus side for the early integrationists, the polls are still showing a wafer-thin ma-jority for the Gaullists, while Graham Bishop of Salomon Brothers pointed to signs of fragmentation on the left after the Communists appeared to harden their stance on EMU. Against that, Michael Lewis of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell ten-Martin Brookes of Goldman tatively suggested French na-achs was one of several who tional holidays may be

### Videotron NEW CABLE TV & TELEPHONE NETWORK CONSTRUCTION Telephone: 081 318 9884 081 427 9185 Under threat: Cable firms' plans are based on BT broadcasts being banned until 2001

proaching the end of its so called "work-out", having been

rescued by its banks from coi-

lapse in 1991. The question

that remains is when precisely its banks are prepared to crystallise a likely £400m loss.

The pressure is now on either

to sell or float the 1,700 William

Hill betting shops, since the arrangement with the banks

for £1bn of loans runs out at the end of the year. Bass, which

owns the 930-strong Coral bet-

ting shops chain, is widely

tipped as a possible bidder, while Brent Walker could oth-

erwise reverse William Hill into

a shell or find a merger partner. Brent Walker's advisers,

Close Brothers, are drawing up

the disposal options in a report

which they intend to present to

the board by the summer.
Lloyds Bank leads the bank

syndicate for William Hill, while

Standard Chartered and Svenska Handelsbanken are also

heavily exposed to the group.

Brent Walker's shares are cur-

future is spelt out in the annu-

al report. Various options for

realising the company's invest-

ment in William Hill are under

consideration and if one of these

options were to be successfully

concluded the directors would

consider the company's exit op-

tions, including liquidation."

The stark reality of the group's

rently worth just 2p.

### Brent Walker's £1m pay-off

John Willcock

Brent Walker, the betting shops group struggling under a £1.2bn debt burden, paid the former head of its pub division John Brackenbury £1m in compensation when he left last year. Mr Brackenbury then reemerged as chairman of the Puhmaster group just a couple

of months later, after the chain had been sold for £171m to a consortium headed by Nat West Ventures. A spokesman for Brent Walker pointed out yesterday that 60 other employees as well as Mr Brackenbury received

bunuses for the successful sale of Pubmaster. According to Brent Walker's annual report published yester-day it also paid John Brown, head of the William Hill betting chain, a £250,000 bonus for achieving a settlement with Grand Metropolitan over the purchase of

William Hill in 1989. .The settlement, worth a net £35m to Brent Walker, was achieved by an independent arbitrator, Arthur Andersen. The Brent Walker spokesman said Mr Brown's bonus was for all the time and hard working in getting the settlement.

In total, Mr Brown's pay increased from £274,000 in 1995 to £489,000 last year. Brent Walker is fast apIN BRIEF

Virgin loses out to Prism on 'rail slots'

Virgin has lost the first battle over access to train "slots" in the privatised rail industry to rival operator Prism. The Rail Regulator John Swift announced yesterday that South Wales and West Railway, which is run by Prism, would be allowed to operate services between Manchester and Penzance and Portsmouth and Liverpool this summer rather than the Virgin-owned Cross Country Trains.

Oftel says BT service breaches licence

The telephones watchdog. Oftel, yesterday said British Telecom had breached its operating beence by offering its Call Minder answering service, which records messages for a £5-a-quarter fee. Don Cruickshank, the telephones regulator, said BT was operating the service in a way which prevented rival providers from entering the market with competing products. However, Mr Cruickshank feared prices to consumers could rise if BT were forced to put Call Minder on a separate accounting basis. Call Minder has more than half a million customers and is expanding rapidly.

Orange customer base rises to 930,000

Orange, the UK's newest mobile phone network, yesterday revealed that its customer base had expanded to 930,000, an increase of 36,000 since the end of March. It means Orange has continued its strong growth levels which in the first three months of the year outstripped those of its rival networks.

Tring convenes egm over chairman

Tring International Group is calling a extraordinary general meeting at the request of interests associated with former joint chief executives, Mark Frey and Jay Chernow who, with family interests, have a 20 per cent stake in the company. Tring said the egm, which will be convened by 29 May, was requested to consider a proposal to remove Joe Bollom, non-executive chairman, Philip Robinson, chief executive, Steve Porter, finance director and nonexecutive director, Robert Leigh.

Tibbett & Britten approaches Applied

Tibbett & Britten Group PLC said it is in discussions with Applied Distribution Group PLC which may lead to an all-share offer for Applied Distribution. The offer, if made, would value each Applied Distribution share at a price of approximately 48 pence, Tibbett & Britten said in a statement.

# The UK's Best Offer?



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### Footsie passes 4,600 as institutions bank on financials

The furious stampede into financials sent Footsie soaring past the 4,600 milestone. In what After hitting 655p the shares has been a remarkable four-day week for blue chips the index some of the members who rejumped more than 170 points.

New York injected a cautionary note into yesterday's proceedings. It opened with a flourish but then moved into negative territory, pulling Footsie from its 4,646 high to 4,630.9, up 50.5.

The latest headlong rush into money shares saw financials capturing 14 of the top 20 spots. GRE, the insurer, led the charge with a 19p gain to 308p; Royal Bank of Scotland, with HSBC bid rumours again going the rounds, was runner, up

with a 33p advance to 635.5p. Others in awe-inspiring form included Barclays, up 46p to 1,255p; HSBC 62.5p to 1,857.5p, with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson signalling a £21

Alliance & Leicester, however, ran out of enthusiasm. ended unchanged at 626p as sisted the lure of the institutional auctions decided to cash

in their chips.

The insatiable appetite institutions are displaying for financials is, in some quarters, creating unease. For years many were reluctant to get too

deeply involved. Now with the financial sector being enlarged by the rush of conversions they are, as the herd instinct takes over, falling over themselves to get stock and paying some exceedingly

Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, firmed to 301.5p as Joseph Lewis, the mega rich Bahamas-based entrepreneur, lifted his stake to 29.57 per cent. Almost certainly the shares came from Wat-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

which sold 3 million at 295p. netting a £5m profit. It was not enough to induce interest in its shares, off 1.5p to 275p.
The company said last

month interim profits would be lower, a warning which sent its shares crashing 37.5p.
The J Sainsbury/Marks & Spencer meat alliance story fell from its hook as Marks offered a complete rebuttal. A spokes-

sense; there is no truth in it Safeway, the supermarket chain with results next week. gave up 5p to 338p as SBC Warburg was said to have turned

women said: "Its absolute non-

stock market reporter of the year BT, reflecting The Indepen-dent report of Government talks to allow a move into entertainment broadcasting,

was at one time 4p higher at

454.5p. But criticism from Of-

tel over its Call Minder an-

wering service left the shares at 451.5p, up 1p. Engineer APV climbed above the Siebe bid to 106.5p as speculators banked on a rival offer Applied Distribution advanced op to 42p with Tibber & Britten emerging as the likely bidder with, its seems,

48p the likely price. The bidder for Cullens, the convenience stores chain, is Administore, owners of Eua share; the price rose 3.5p to

BSkyB fell 9.5p to 586p as 20 million shares were placed by Goldman Sachs at 582p.

Allied Domeco was another in doleful form, falling 8p to 428.5p. Interim results are due on Tuesday and the market is fretting that figures, expected to be moderately lower, will be accompanied by talk of flat drink profits.

Pilkington edged forward Ip to 115p. There is some excitement developing in the warrants. They rose 3.25p to 15.5p: last month they hit an 11.25p 12 month low. The warrants con-

vert in a year's time at 120p. Shield Diagnostic produced another confident statement about its AFT product for detecting heart problems. The shares, which have more than halved from their 805p February peak, rallied 50p to

ued to enjoy life with Noel Edmonds, who has concluded an up to £600,000 deal with the car

security group. Tring International, the struggling music group, held at 11p as former executives demanded the removal of four directors including chairman Joe Bolton. Mark Frey and Jay Chemow, with around 20 per cent of the capital, have de-manded a shareholder meeting to vote on the proposed board changes. The shares have fallen from 39p a year ago and from 151p in 1994.

Allied Leisure, the 10 pin bowling chain, fell 4p to 31p. Worries about trading and changes such as the minimum wage have lowered the shares from 59.5p earlier this year.

Media Business held at 7.25p. Stockbroker Granville Davies believes the shares are attractive, suggesting profits of £1.5m for the year just ended

TEurocamp, offering camp ing holidays in France, is .... holding at its year's high of 246p with a mixture of take-over and trading hopes influencing the shares. Acquisitive Airtours, with a similar opers, ation to Eurocamp, hovers on the bid horizon. Stockbro ker John Siddall's keenness stems largely from trading considerations and analyst Andrey Carroll expects prof

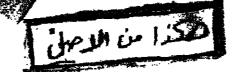
its of £11m this year againsts £9.3m last time. The shares

were 162.5p in November.

Frost, the petrol retailer squeezed unmercifully by the industry giants, is on course to nearly double profits.

Crédit Lyonnais Laing analyst Ian Jermin expects profits to reach £21m this year against £10.4m last year. He is looking for £24.3m in 1998. The shares are 124.5p against the 269.5p before the

# negative. Profits of around £425m (£401m) are likely. petrol price war erupted. ropa Foods. It is offering 28p Toad, up 9p to 50p, continmoughs, the struggling printer 00 Sterling Rates 04 01 Bullion Report 05 02 Weil St Report 20 03 Tokyo Market 21 From May 29th BT are cutting national daytime calls by 10% A CONTRACT OF THE PROPERTY OF 226 337 342 349 352 354 353 363 363 362



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### Hill's agony should only last to end of season

**Motor racing** 

DERICK ALLSOP reports from Monte Carlo

Perhaps it just wasn't what Damon Hill expected yesterday. Certainly it was outrageously over the top, even by Monaco's standards: a parade of celebs and wannabe celebs in costumes you

by Elton John and Madonna. Sponsors' functions are part of a racing driver's job and Hill probably looked no less at ease than Sergei Bubka and Catherine Oxenberg, two other "ambassadors" of this commercial enterprise. Prince Albert, of course, had seen and done it all before.

Hill, however, had seemed especially restless down at the circuit and flaunting with the peacock set was patently not his idea of preparation for tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix.

Formula One's reigning champion has much on his mind, and when he has it shows. Four races and no finishes adds up to a depressing start with Arrows-Yamaha, the more so when Williams-Renault, the team that rejected him, remain pre-eminent and Jordan-Peugeot, the team he rejected, have emerged as the coming force.

Being seen at breakfast yesterday with Eddie Jordan inevitably activated the gossips. particularly since this was Monaco's traditional rest day. There was irony, too, in the words of Patrick Head, who along with Frank Williams decided Hill should be replaced in their team by Heinz-I-larald Frentzen.

Head subscribes to the general belief that the 36-year-old Englishman will be a man in demand for next season. Hill has already indicated he intends to secure a competitive drive, be it at Arrows or with another team, and Head anticipates he will have his wish.

He suggests a potential destination for him could be McLaren-Mercedes who recently reached agreement with Williams over the transfer of their chief designer, Adrian Newey.

Head, Williams' technical director, said: "Damon is one of the best in Formula One, one of the top drivers in the world, and teams are looking for top

They may not have to wait much competitive car next season.

"Damon's a well sorted enough type of person not to want to spend his life in the middle and back of the grid. I'm sure he would rather be at home with his wife and kids than doing that.

"As he said himself, he will want to be in a more competitive situation and I expect him to be. Either Tom Walkinshaw will convince him he will have the car he wants at Arrows next season, or he will find it elsewhere.

"Now that Adrian Newey is at McLaren, it wouldn't surprise me if he had an opportunity there. Prost is another possibility, although their car is essentially a Benetton and it depends what their new car will be like."

Hill has been linked also with Sauber and Benetton, but the former are unlikely to meet his technical requirements and the boss of the latter, Flavio Briatore, Head suspects, may not represent an obvious soul-mate.

As for Eddie Jordan's camp: "If Damon had gone to Jordan, he would have been running at the front and possibly winning races," Head said. Jordan agrees.

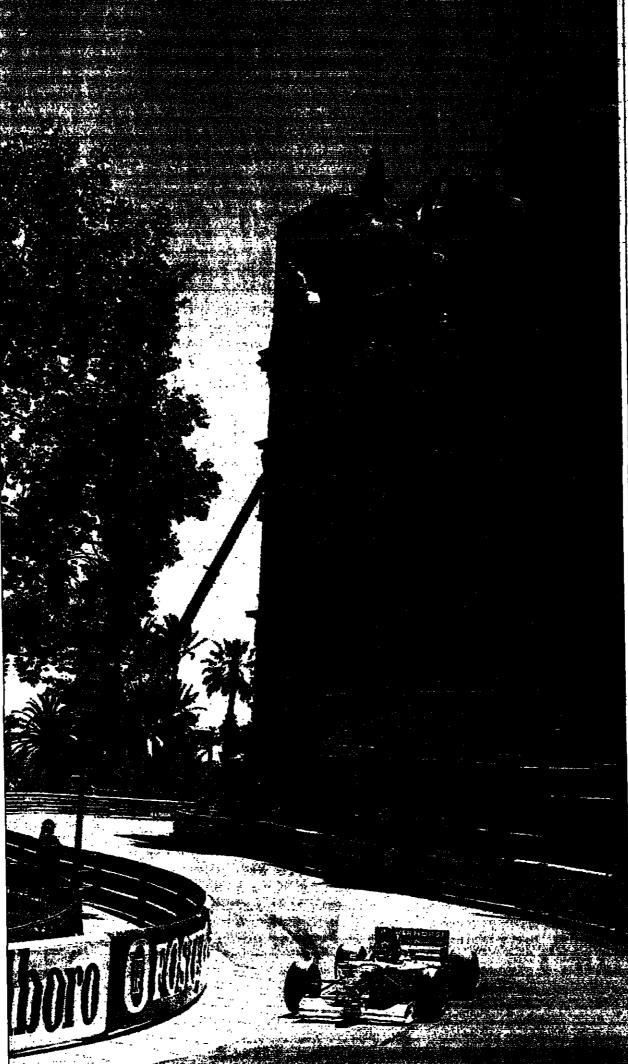
One team apparently not preparing a bid for Hill in 1998 self content with the progress of Frentzen, who had his maiden victory at the San Marino Grand

Prix a fortnight ago. Head said: "We're happy with Heinz-Harald and I believe he'll be more involved in the championship situation from now on. He didn't panic when things were not going right for him. He's a together kind of guy and has a nice dry sense of humour." Another experienced judge of

these matters, Ken Tyrrell, added his supportive voice to Hill's cause. He said: "Hill is certainly one of the top three drivers in the world today, behind Michael Schumacher and Jacques Villeneuve."

Schumacher, Villeneuve, Frentzen and perhaps Johnny Herbert, quickest in practice on Thursday, are expected to be embroiled in the contest for pole position when business resumes today, an advantage nowhere more crucial than on these narrow, twisting streets.

Schumacher and Ferrari have himself with such a thought.



drivers. I'm sure he'll be in a longer. Hill dare not even torment. Street life: Damon Hill, the defending champion who has never won a grand prix in the Principality, guides his Photograph: John Marsh/Empics I this match with a lot of advan- David O'Donnell. Arrows-Yamaha round the twisting roads of Monte Carlo

### **Hawks hunt** down Jordan

Basketball

Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulis experienced a new sensation on Thursday - defeat on their home turf in a National Association play-off for the first time since 1995.

The Atlanta Hawks took the reigning champions by the horns, winning 163-95 at the United Center in Chicago to tie the best-of-seven game Eastern Conference semi-finals 1-1. Steve Smith and Mookie Blaylock did the damage, Smith scoring 27 points and Blaylock

26, including eight back-breaking three-pointers.
Jordan collected 27 points and Scottie Pippen 24, but neither could recore Crimes in the ther could rescue Chicago in the second half as they had in previous play-off games.

Atlanta, who could have won the first encounter, but lost 100-97 on Pippen's late three-pointer and Jordan's 20 third-quarter points, host games three and four today and tomorrow before the series returns to Chicago next Tuesday. The Bulls won 69 regular sea-

son games but finished with three defeats in the last four and have not looked like the team who lost only 10 games out of 72 last season and rolled through the play-offs to their fourth title in six years.

The Bulls crowd could not

believe their eyes when At-lanta began their fightback with Bulls leading 68-67 and three minutes left in the third quarter. A 19-3 run took the Hawks into the lead, 86-71, with Chris tian Lactmer scoring four of his 18 points and Mutombo five of

The Bulls again tried to rally behind Jordan and Pippen, but after they made it 93-86. Lactiner-scored on a drive and Smith hit two free throws to pul the Hawks comfortably in front with 1min 26sec left.

After losing the two opening games, the Los Angeles Lakers were always ahead in beating the visiting Utah Jazz 104-84 in game three of the Western Conference semi-final.

Shaquille O'Neal was limited to 11 points and 10 rebounds before being ejecter but reserve Kobe Bryant ledbalanced Lakers attack with 19 points - all but two in the fourth quarter. Van Exel added 17 points and Elden Campbell scored 14.

O'Neal played only 18 min-utes before being called for two technical fouls and getting an automatic ejection with 7:36 left. The Lakers, however, were safely ahead.

-Portland Trail Biazers, who were beaten by the Lakers 3-1 in the first-round Western Conference series, have dismissed

### **Bradford set out to** settle old score

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

Much attention tomorrow night will focus on how the Bradford Bulls will recover from their Wembley disappointment. An equally intriguing question is how a second successive Silk Cut Challenge Cup final victory will affect St Helens.

By a glorious piece of fixture planning, the "best two rugby sides in the northern hemisphere," as the Bulls' coach, Matthew Elliott, has called them. meet again at Odsal eight days after the final. On the face of it, the loss of Robbie Paul, with a foot injury which Elliott says will rule him out for at least a mouth. strikes a blow to the Bulls' title hopes, but Saints' coach, Shaun McRae, is wary, especially after the late team changes Elliott

made before the final. "I've heard a whisper that Paul might play," he said. "I

tages. They are at home, and we haven't forgotten them sticking 50 points on us last season." McRae also expects reveng

to come it. "It can be easier !! pick yourself up than get your feet back on the ground," he said. Saints will still be without Alan Hunte. Steve Prescott, Anthony Sullivan and Chris Joynt were all having tests today. but all are expected to play in a match that could put the Bulis

four points clear of St Helens. Two other clubs with top four aspirations, Salford and Leeds. meet at The Willows, but tomorrow is also a pivotal day at the foot of the table. Castleford will climb out of last place if they beat Paris at home, and they could

hardly have a better chance. Paris sacked their coach, Pcter Mulholland, this week and there are growing doubts about the sustainability of the one club that makes European Super League european. Castleford's new coach, Stuart Raper, will be don't really expect it, but it eager to seize on the disarray of wouldn't astonish me. In any a side that is being coached on case, I think Bradford go into a caretaker basis by its captain,

### NEWTON ABBOTS

**HYPERION** 

6.05 Embankment 6.35 Bishops Castle 7.05 Brave Tornado 7.35 Mister Horatio 8.05 Lucky Eddie 8.35 Apachee Flower

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). Left-hand, sharp, crease with short run-in.

Course is N of town on A380. Newton Λίκοι station i m. ADMISSION: Tauersalls \$10: Course \$5. Accompa

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bad (6.05) was at Lactow on Monday; Fellow Stock (7.35) was at Holmicote point-to-point on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Baylord Prince (8:35) has een sent 190 miles by Mrs J Ewer from Lewes, East Sussex.

RIJNKKRED FIRST TIME: Barrow Street (viscori), Flow

6.05 CORPORATECLUS NOMICE SKY £3,800 added 2m 1f EMPLANGMENT (5) N Henderson 7 11 6.

... M A Fitzs 5/ TMERAGON (735) O Sherwood 7 11 0 ..... A McCardy P WESTERN PLATEOY (F6) R Bales 5 11 0 ..... V Stattery OUP FRMA. SCORE (62) P Famel 7 10 9 ..... T Descensible OD MEMRY A SCORE (62) P Bales 5 10 9 ..... T Titley PRESS AMAIN (F148) P Haymand 5 10 9 ..... B Fendon

BETTRIC: 8-11 Embardonent, 7-2 Terragon, 8-1 Nearly A Score,

6.35 HORSES AWAY RACING CLUB H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) 2m 110yds 23P034 BEAU BASELLARIO (28) (D) P Nicholis 10 11 10 ...

105142 195HOPS CASTLE (10) R Frost 9 10 7 -62-501 EVENING RAIN (28) (CO) R Hodges 11 10 3 ... 

PSPSF TANGO'S DELIGHT (25) R Bales 9 10 0 .......... V Sattery - 6 declared -12th, Thers The Life 9st 8th, Tango's Delight 9st 1th. BETTING: 9-4 Beau Babillant, 3-1 Bishops Castle, 7-2 Evening Rele, 5-1 That's The Life, 8-1 Stadys Emmanuel, 10-1 Tangh's Delight Barrow Street, Cossely Goyle, 16-1 others

7.05 CAPL NEKOLA MEMORIAL SKY (CLASS C) £4,850 added 2m 6f

1 4-2164 BCHO DE JAMSER (FIO (206) A Hobbs 5 12 0 ... AO-510 BRAYE TORNADO (\$7) G Belding & 12 0 \_\_\_\_ B Featon 500646 MOVING OUT (7) Mass H Kright 9 10 7 \_\_\_\_\_ J F Titley 131P22 BLASKET HERO (B) (CD) (EF) Mrs S Williams 9 10 4 405135 RHYTHM AND BILLIES (25) R Bucker 7 10 0... 6 -40501 COUNTRY TARQUIN (66) (D) R Hodges 5 10 0 ... 7 SF-2PO TOMBLY COOPER (8) Mrs B Waring 6 10 0 \_\_E Byrne B

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Rhythm And Blues 9st 2b. Country Terquin 8st 5tb, Tommy Cooper 8st 4b. Kil: 7-4 Brave Torondo, 7-2 Moving Out, 5-1 Stasket Hero, 7-1 Rhythm And Blues, 8-1 Echo De Jenser, Country Tarquia, 18-

7.35 TOTNES AND BRIDGE SKY CHASE (CLASS H) £1.350 2m 5f 110yd FUSIFUP TOMES GENERAL STAR (14) (0) O Carter 9 12 7

1 6-F212 MISTER HORATTO BB W Lends 7 12 7....Mr M Lends (7) Mr T Dennis (7)
3 F4-1P3 FULL AURY (14) Miss S Young 9 12 2 Miss S Young (7)
4 PP 521 HERBORSE (SS) (CD) Miss A Howard Chappel 10 12 2 5 P22513 ANN'S AMERICON (14) Mrs C Hilbery 10 12 0.......... 上降 明 行動 (7) 6 PRO-34 BARROW STREET (4) CL Tozard 7 12 0\_\_\_ Mr J Tizzard (7) V

8 11F5-1 FELLOW SIGUE (7) S Severe 10 12 0 \_\_ \_Mr | Downick (7) 9 -4F440 FLOWING RIVER (10) N R Mindell 11 12 0 ... 10 PRF-R4 PREMOLY VIEWS (28) J Holden-Winte 7 12 0 ... 12 241112 MYHARET (7) Mrs P Geeing 10 12 0 ....Mr N Hanta (7)
13 /U12-P NEWSNI EUPRESS (7) I Lister 12 11 9......

14 13-321 TICKET TO THE MOON (55) Mrs J Scott 7 11 9.... \_\_\_\_\_16r J 16 Pritchard (7) RETYRIGE 11-4 Mister Hornito, 13-2 Herborse, Myhamet, 8-1 King Tores, 10-1 Fell Afirt, Ticket To The Moon, 12-1 Tour's Gendal Star,

8.05 HAPPY SOTH BERTHDAY RICHARD BRINSLEY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 2m 110vds 263321 LUCKY EDDE (149 (D) P Hobbs 6 11 6 .....

OPPP-4 SURVEYIN MOY (15% A Hobbs & 11 0 ... 3 P431D4 RUSTIC FLIGHT (10) (C) LWaring 10 11 0 ... 30430 STEER PORT (46) R Frost 6 11 0 . 4 - 30430 STEER PORT (46) R Frost 6 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ J Frost 5 5 51-440 TRENT FIST (24) Mas H Kreght 7 11 0 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ J Filtery 8 /P-P2P TORY'S APMCHE (24) 0 Center 8 11.0 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Filtery PP4 BALLY CRUISE (797) K Balley 10 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_\_ J Mr R Waldey (7) PPPP-5 STRATION FLYER (67) H S Hove 7 10 9 .

-a necessor -SEITIWG; 11-8 Lucky Eddie, 3-1 Tight Fist, 11-2 Bally Cruise, 8 1 Run With Joy, 12-1 Steer Point, 14-1 Tour's Apache, 20-1 Rus-tic Flight, Stratton Flyer

8.35 BLAZE OF GLORY HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,575 3m 3f 1 38F-R3 PERSIAN VIEW (11) (CD) N Balley 7 11 10... 2 -406P5 AMELIONNEMORIES (7) (CD) Mrs B Waring 7 10 9.

025462 APACHEE PLOWER (8) H S Hove 7 10 7M A Regional FF4P45 NICK THE DREAMER (16) KS W G M Turner 12 10 4 5 025000 WHITEBORNET (8) C Egerton 7 10 2 Sophin Mitchell (2) B 6 0333P TIGER CLAW (USA) (21) A Hobbs 11 10 2 R Greene 

roy as: SETIME: 2-1 Persina Visus, 7-1 Ambilicamemories, Rising's Lass, 3-1 Tedar Town, 19-1 Apaches Flower, Nick The Dreamer, White-bornet, Tigar Claw, 14-1 others

Wizard King bids for the fourth Irish victory of his career in tomorrow's Amethyst Stakes at Leopard Sir Mark Prescott's grand servant, who gained the 14th success of his 31-tace career in last month's Leicester shire Stukes at Leicester, tackles six rivals in the IRES MO-added one-mile contest. The six-year-old, needing a win to take his career earnings past £200,000, will George Duffield, is on stable-companion Red Camellia in the French 1,000 Guineas at Longchamp.

£383,50.

6.20 eth of foot handicap hdle (class e) £2,925 11 1 25 25 EFFE HYPERSON 323130 LORD #CMURROUGH (17) J No. 8e 7 11 12 5.20 Above The Cut 5.50 Snowy Petrel 6.20 Chief Mouse 6.50 Isis Dawn 7.20 Garrylough

7.50 Prince Buck 8.20 Doug Eng Left-hand course, Run-in of 240 yards. Course is W of city on 84095. Buses from stations at Warwick (1m) and Leamington Spa (2m). ADMISSION: Club 513 (16 to 24-year-olds 56); Tattersalls 58; Course

S5. CAB PARK: \$3. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Damers Treasure (7.50). VEES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Prince Buck (7.50) won at Southwell on Monday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Woodstock Wander

(8.20) has been sent 176 miles by P Bowen from Haverford 5.20 FUSILIER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m

4 - COSCIP SCHMOZZIE (Z1) K Bridgerer 6 10 9 \_\_\_\_\_ G Bradley 5 - 43U LUCKY ARCHER (B) P Holds 4 10 9 \_\_\_\_ W Mension 6 PPOZZ MIAZEMBERG (B) (D) E Oven Am 10 10 4 . A Thornton - 6 deciared -BETTMG: 15-8 Above The Cut, 11-4 Lucky Archer, 5-1 Maken-berg, 6-1 Swint Clei, 7-1 Bodanthee, 10-1 Schanzzie

5.50 FLYING HACKLE NOVICE CHASE 18 24052 SUPREME TROGLOPITE (63) C Mortot: 5 10 9... 66FFF3 HUGH DANIELS (5) C Hemsley 9 11 0 ... Miss A Dedicy (7) P68633 QLD REDWOOD (S) Mrs L Willemson 10 11 0 . P-0F44 WHOD OF THOUGHT IT (31) P Chamings 6 11 0 ....

- ODPP4 LADY ROSSESSEY (3.4) R.) Plos 7:109 \_\_\_\_W Manufacture SF2SPO ALPRIC MAST (3.9) (0.1) O'Shea 5:108 \_\_\_\_ 

- 9 decimed - 4 211-44 ALLO GEORGE (50) (O) A Newtowne 11 10 12 - 22 decimed - 21 decimed - 21 decimed - 21 decimed - 22 decimed - 23 decimed - 24 decimed - 24 decimed - 24 decimed - 25 d

| OEP111 CHEF MOUSE (11) (D) F Jordon 4 11 2 \_\_\_\_ J Octobre | 12001 CHGJE COLOURS (15) (D) F Jordon 4 11 2 \_\_\_\_ J Octobre | 12001 CHGJE COLOURS (15) (D) J Jenius 7 11 0 \_\_\_\_ S Fox 22504 PRIME OF LIPE (17) J Entire 7 10 5 \_\_\_ S Methat 20220P DESERT FORCE (14) (C) G Form 8 10 3 \_\_\_ S Bradley 8 | 46343 SUPER RAPER (28) G Hubberd 5 10 0 \_\_\_\_ R Johnson \_\_ G Gordand \_\_ ETIRE: 6-4 Chief March 4 A 1 \_\_\_ C BETTINE: 6-4 Chief Money, 4-1 Lord McMurough, 5-1 Circle Colours, 13-2 Prime Of Life, Seper Replier, 10-1 Desert Force 6.50 BLE MACAN NH NOVICE 1

added 2m 4f 110vds

added 2m 4f 110yds 

12 OPP NEWNOT (42) P Richers 8 11 0 G. Uydov 13 5-7404 LABURSAN GOLD (89) Ms. J Perms 6 11 0 D. Leeby 14 20-0 Ms BOLMSQLES (45) I Williams 6 11.0 B Powell 15 QUG44 PENLINGS (25) 6 hubbed 5 11 0 R Jehreson

7.20 WILLSFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6.500 added 3m 2f 1 -1F16P SOUNDS STRONG (70) (BP) D Nicholson 8 12 0

2 601F41 GARRYLOUGH (15) D Gardolfo 8 11 6 .... R Deservoidy 3 321113 CARBOO GOLD (USA) (25) K Beiny 8 11 2

7.50 NORMANDY NOVICE SKY H) £1,350 added 3m 2f

2-11F1 PRINCE BUCK (5) M J Roberts 7 12 7 JNr P Hacking (3) 29-P52 BENTLEY MANOR (13) M Lloyd 8 12 0 3 0-0013 DAMERS TREASURE (21) B Summers 11 12 0 ...

4 U3-111 DARTON BI (27) Mrs S Muses 14 12 0.Mr 18 Herds (7) B
5 PF5/PP POLYDBUCES (21) R J Inglesser 11 12 0... Mrs 18 Inglesser (7)
6 /1-151 TRUE FORTUNE (14) J Moose 7 12 0 Mrs 9 3 Jones (7)
7 P-216F VERY DARROS (3) 1 Hrs 7 12 0 ... Mins 5 Sherrest (7)
8 30/U KELLYTINO (82) PR Weburs 8 11 9 ... Mr P Scott (7)
9 declared BETTING: 6-4 Prince Buck, 9-4 Darbos RI, 6-1 True Fortune, 10-1 Desgrap Research, 16-1 Very Darlog, Kellydon, 20-1 Benfley Menor, Polydomers

8.20 ARTHUR HUIT MEMORIAL SKY H) £1,500 added 2m

STREDANTE R Lee 5 11.4 Plensley (3)
STREDANTE R Lee 5 11.4 Plensley (3)
STORM HOME O O'Ned 5 11.4 Mr A Hillchel
WHISTON RUN I Williams 5 11.4 F Bogle (7)
WOODSTOCK WANDERSE (77) P Bowen 5 11.4 EFROM LANE O O'Noil 4 10 13 ... S O'She BRISTOL GOLD P Feigne 4 10 13 ... L Switzer CERRIC TUDOR P Mischel 4 10 13 ... L T Nector DOUG SING MR J Plemon 4 10 13 ... L D FOY DUISTON SLICK B Prece 4 10 13 Miss L Boom HIGH IN THE SKY J Isrloys 4 10 13 ... D Yellowide LICY GLITISTS 1 Foreign 5 10 13 ... A Rese LUCY GLITTERS I Forsier 5 10 13 .... MELTON MADE G HANGED 4 10 13 ... 

### CARLISLE

-tax. 6 ran. Stu-Ind, 174. 0n W Easterby, Ste-iff Hutton: Totale £2.10; £2.10. £1.10. Df: £3.40, £3: £7.41. 2.40: 1. ALLINSON'S MATE (Victoria Ap-pieto) 7-2: 2. Cascordus 8-1; 3. First Gold 8-1. 8 ran. 6-4 fav Brocture Gold (5th). 174.

3.10: 1. JACK THE LAD (L Chamock) 6-1; 4-1: 3, Petito Risk 33-1. 11 ran evens for Carbuche. 1/4, 4, U Hetherton, Mal-ton). Total: £7.70; £1.60, £1.80, £12.30. DF: £9.20. CSF: £34.63. Tricost: £743.09. Trio: £166.70. 3.40: 1\_BIRCHWOOD SUN (/Wasker) 9-2

ji-fav; 2. Amron 5-1: 3. Rymer's Rascel 9-2 ji-fav; 10 ram. 1%, 3%. M Dods, Darling-ton), Toto: £8,80: £1,80, £2,60, £1,20, DF: £11,40, CSF: £29,11. Incast: £106,19. Inc:

E45.30. NR: Breconsil Lad.

4.10: 1, CORNICHE QUEST (P P Murphy) 2.10; 1. HRST BRIDGE (T Lucas) 7-4 jt. for; 2. Phy Star 11-4; 3. Alconfelch 7-4 jt. for; 2. Phy Star 11-4; 3. Alconfelch 7-4 jt. for; 2. Phy Star 11-4; 3. Alconfelch 7-4 jt. for; 2. Afranz 7-1; 3. Seyons 13-2 for; 2. Afranz 7-

DF: £15.00, CSF: £18.80. Trio: £28.60. 4.40: 1. ALL ON (G Duffield) 11-4 lay; 2. Highfield Paz 12-1: 3. Well Associated 11-2. 9 ran. 9, 6, U Hetherton, Meltoni. Total £3.20: £2.40, £5.60, £2.70. DF: £32.10 CSF: £40,08, Tresst: £169,43, Trio: £151.00.

LINGFIELD

1,50: 1. PENGAMON (J Quan) 3-1 jr-fev; 2. Benzhef (O-1; 3. Sweet Supposin 15-2. 12 ran. 3-1 jr-fev Farmost, Hd. /s. (H Colonaridge, Newmarkett, Tota: £4.80: £2.30, £5.00, £1.50, DF: £84.20, CSF: 2.20: 1. RUNS IN THE FAMILY (D Hamson) 6-1; 2. Willow Dale 7-2 (av; 3. Polly Golightly 14-1. 13 ran. 4, 1%. (G McCourt,

RACING RESULTS

Mr & Sheeldn (7)

Wantage). Total: £5.90; £2.30, £1.40, £4.70, DF: £9.60, CSF: £24.68. Tricast: £273.69. Tric: £125.40. NR: Danding Mys-

2. Smooth Salling 7-4 fev; 3. Whisky Mack 3-1. 9 ran. 1%, ni. (W.G.M. Turner, Sherborner). Tokes £3.20; £1.40, £1.40, £1.30. DP: £3.40. CSF: 66.24, This: 63.30, 3.20: 1. LILLI CLARRE (T Sprake) 8-1; 2. Crown Court 13-8 fav; 3. Chewit 15-8. 7

3.50: 1. MONO LADY (A Clark) 10-1: 2. Celendula 10-1; 3. Worldwide Elsie 25-1. 12 rap. 15-8 fav Bubble Wings (6th). 6, 1%. (D Havein Jones, Pontyondd), Tota: £15.00; E2.40, £4.30, £7.20, DF: £41.20, CSF: CSF: £48.52, CSF: £

18t(eharroton), Tota: £35.30; £4.70, £3.00, 4.50: 1. PRAEDITUS (Dane O'Neill) 7-4 ber.

2. Perfect Pal 11-2; 3. Regal Thunder 9-4. 12 reg. Nr., 17., (R Hermon, East Everleigt). Tota: £3.20; £1.40, £2.00, £1.70. DF: £12.60, CSF: £10.90, Troc £5.80. Jacksot: Not won, Pool of £10,783.03 cerried forward to Baverley today.

Placepot: £3,537.00. Quantipot: £848.50.

Place 6: £1,220.24. Place 5: £427.86.

SEDGEFIELD 2.00: 1. TOSHIBA TALK (C McCormack) 16-1; 2. Catch The Pigeon 5-2; 3. Royal York 11-10 fav. 8 ran. 5, 5. (8 Elison). Totas £11.60; £2.30, £1.20, £1.00, DF: £19.00.

CSF: £27.00, Tocasc: £310.73, Yes: £55.70. 3.00:1 LEPTON (Regrate) 33-1; 2. Hee's
A Damoor 5-2; 3. Soutcate States 50-1; 11
ran, 9-4 fav Moss Pageant. 27., 9. (J Curus). Tetas: £45.00; £9.10, £1.20, £5.20. DF: 3.30: 1. JEMBEY O'TOEA (E Husbard) 25-1;

£3,968.03. Trio: £46,20. 4.00: 1. GREENBOUNT LAD (Mr P Comforth) 5-2; 2, What Chance 9-4; 3. Knowe Head 13-8 tav. 6 ran. ½, 19. (J Comforth). Tate: £2.50; £1.80, £1.80, DF: £2.20, CSF:

2. Journty Gig 14-1; 3. Jendee 12-1. 10 ran. 5, 7. (J Macke). Tote: £29.10; £8.20, £3.40,

£1.40, DF: £57.10, CSF: £286.33, Troost:

4.30: 1. FATEHALKHARR (C McCorrects) 5-4 fev; 2. Eden Dencer 7-2; 3. Joné 7-1. 7 ran. No. 13. (B Elison). Tota: £1.90; £1.20, £2.70, DP: £3.10, CSF: £5.69 Placepot: £261.60. Quadpot: £278.70.

### **New plan for Noyan**

plans for his star chaser Noyan, successful in Punchestown's Heineken Gold Cup last month. "I will try and train him for the Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury in November with a long term eye on the Scottish National," Fahey said yesterday. "I was just lucky to have Noyan when he was right," he added.

The young Irishman was also hopeful that his smart sprinter Superior Premium will soon put his defeat in last week's Palace House Stakes at New-

Richard Fahey has ambitious market behind him. "Superior Premium just wasn't 100 per cent when he came home," Fahey explained.

> raced Carisbrooke. The colt, in training with Henry Cecil, has been quoted in ante-post betting for Epsom and was offered at 40-1 by Coral yesterday morning. But a stable spokeswoman said: "Mr Poland wants to let punters know that they shouldn't back Carisbrooke for the Derby as he will be withdrawn."



## **Patriarch** to justify the praise

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Of all the excesses unloaded by Thatcherism in the 1980s one of the most striking in racing was Lingfield's domination of the Derby trials. While the Lady was not for turning during that decade, the course always was and its contorting resemblance to Epsom led several trainers to audition their best horses at the track. Many were rewarded.

During the 1980s, Lingfield winners Cacoethes and Mashkour ran into the frame at Ep-som, while Kahyasi, Slip Anchor and Teenoso actually triumphed in the Derby itself. Since then though, Lingfield's significance has not so much waned as evaporated altogether. No horse this decade has gone on from its Blue Riband Trial to finish in the first five in the Derby. Twelve have tried.

Today's class of '97 contains five horses, four of them entered for the Derby, two of which have been arousing ante-post interest this week. The name of Tanzasa, a stablemate of Entrepreneur, was patted out on the tom-toms of the bookmaker's bush telegraph after Michael Stoute's team had exercised on Newmarket's Racecourse Side on Wednesday. As a consequence, he was cut for the Derby by Coral, who have also reduced Silver Patriarch.

The grey was only third of six on his seasonal debut in Sandown's Classic Trial, but positive noises have been emanating from the mouths of his trainer, John Dunlop, and rider, Pat Eddery, this week. The chance of Silver Patriarch (next best 3.00) is clear, which is more than can be said about the movements of Frankie Dettori. The Italian retired unwell after a single race at Lingfield yesterday and went straight home to the duvet. A decision on whether he partners Papua in to-

day's trial comes this morning. Lochangel, who was part of Dettori's seven at Ascot last year, contests the first televised race but may struggle to contain ferred to as "my secret weapon".

ONGCHAMP Tomorrow

Penalty Value £112,233

2.10 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULICHES BBC2

- 7 cocures -BETTINS: 7-4 Always Loyal, Mousee Glaste, 6-1 Red Cassellia, 10-1 Seebe, 12-1 Dances With Dreyms, Nighthard, 25-1 Star Profile 1998: Ta Rib 3 9 0 W Casson 14-1 (E Dunion (SB) drawn (4) 9 ran

3.15 DUBAI POULE D'ESSAI DES POULAINS (GROUP BRC2

BETTING: 7-4 Yalaietzmen, 11-4 Daylami, Loup Sauvage, 10-1 Babasulan Bounty, 11-1 Pants Fellow, 12-1 Visionary, 18-1 Keos 1998: Ashkalan 3 9 2 G Mossè 4-5 far (A De Royer-Dupper drawn (5) 10 ran

RETUNG: 11-8 Cloudings, 7-4 Asterobad, 3-1 Zonith Rose, 12-1 Kathalsis, 20-1 Eleos 1996: Helsso 3 9 2 D Boed 2-5 fav (E LeSouche) drawn (2) 5 ran

Baked Alaska (2.00), whose trainer, Alec Stewart, is due another winner now that Mtoto has gone into retirement. Just five go to post for the Oaks trial, and two of those have already been Sandown victims, by 10 lengths and more, of UKRAINE VENTURE (nap 2,30).

Britain fields three in tomorrow's Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) at Longchamp. The best of them is one of the reasons why Peter O'Sullevan is retiring, Yalaietanee. He attempts to make Michael Stoute the first trainer to win the opening colts' Classic in both Britain and France since Guy Harwood with To Agori Mou and Recitation in 1981.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Ukraine Venture (Lingfield 2.30) **NB: Silver Patriarch** (Lingfield 3.00)

Yalaietanee's form looks no less scruffy following the Newmarket performance of his Greenham Stakes victim, Revoque. Also involved are Godolphin's Bahamian Bounty and the chattiest of Clive Brittain's talking horses this year, Fantastic Fellow. Dear Clive may still be recovering from his colt's failure to carry off the Eurovision Song Contest last weekend.

Team Britain supply five of the seven runners for the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches (French 1,000 Guineas). Godolphin send out Nightbird and Star Profile, while Seebe, Dances With Dreams and Mark Prescott's Red Camellia complete the battery. The lastnamed is hardly surfing across La Manche on a tide of expectation. "My worries would be whether she is good enough and whether she will handle the soft

Despite the visitors' strength, the favourites are the home pair. Mousse Glacee will be trying to overturn recent form with the unbeaten Always Loyal, whom Criquette Head has re-

### LINGFIELD

2.00 Lochangel 2.30 UKRAINE VENTURE (nap) 3.00 Sliver Patriarch (nb)

3.30 Supply And Demand COING: Good to Soft (Soft to places).

STALLS: Straight - stands alde; round course - 1m if 100pd - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High 6f & 7f.

Left-band, share coarse. Course is SE of town on B2028. Linglish station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members 518; Grandstand 513; Säver Ring 58. CAR PARIS; Chib 53; remainder free.

53; remainstrator.

III. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; G L Moore — 87 winners from 475 runners gives a success ratio of 14.1% and a loss to a 81 level state of 542.90; M Johnston — 54 winners, 288 runners, 18.8%, -5:00.09; R O'Sullivan — 45 winners, 328 runners, 13.7%, -560.97; R Blamon — 40 witners, 324 runners, 12.3%, -5114.67.

LEADING JOCKETE: L Dettori — 88 winners, 353 rides, 24.5%, +215.53; J Weaver — 55 winners, 365 rides, 21.5%, +215.53; J Weaver — 55 winners, 365 rides, 21.5%, +518.13; R Cochrane — 64 winners, 366 rides, 17.5%, +5:36.20; A Glark — 53 winners, 452 rides, 11.7%, -557.87.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Pupus (visored), Michael Venture (2.00).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Our People (J.30) has been sent 270 miles by M Johnston

### MILCARS CHARTWELL STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS CLASS A) £16,250 added fillies & mares 7f £10,580 1564-5 EL OPERA (140 (17) Gaussi Salment P Cale 4.9.3......

- 7 declared -BETTENG: 7-4 Lockungel, 9-2 (2 Opera, 11-2 Surphuo, 7-1 West Hemble, Baker Alaska, Sup-BETTIME: For Management of the Cartest Cartest

Locksong's half-sister LOCHANGEL came from a long way off the pace to be four lengths second to Blane Water at Kempton on her debut and duly went one better at Ascot three weeks tater, setting a steedy pace and keeping on well to best Corsin three-quanters of a length in the Blue Seal Stakes. The daughter of Night Shift is a useful prospect and should get her seeson off to a good start. Semibler and up a hat-more at Yamoushi, Doncaster and Chester last year before finishing fifth behind Indian Rocket in the Group Two Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury and fourth to Moonlight Paradise in the Rockfel Stakes at Newmarket. She got on edge before her return at Newmarket on Sunday and was a disapporting last of six behind Swiss Law, so may be best watched for now. Supercal, who won a six-furiong hand-cap at Kernpton on her return, was a creditable fifth to Dance Paradis in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newwarket (Jim 20) on Sunday. A bigger threat should be Baiked Alaske, who landed a 20-runner Newmarket marden in October. She did not settle when only sixth to Reunton in the Nell Guyn on her return and remains capable of improvement. The yelding ground was against El Opera when she was fifth to Wazer Ving at Leicaster on her return. West Humble and Prends Ca do not look good enough.

Selection: LOCHANGEL

	,			
	2	.30	LINGFIELD CAKS TRIAL STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS A) £20,000 added 3YO 1m 3f 106yds £12,146	BBC1
- 1	1		BOOK AT BEDTIME (15) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 8 B	
	2	1-4	CROWN OF LIGHT (5) (Shelift Mohenmed) M Storag & 8	_1. Dettori 4 74
	3		GO FOR SALT (USA) (15) IS Harrow M Struce 8 8.	
	4		LYCELITY (20) (Seeed Manana) C Britain 8.8	
- 1	5		UNSTABLE VENTURE (15) ID: Frank S B C160) S Woods 8 8	
i	ı		- 5 declared -	
	BET	TRIG: 5-4	Ukraine Vesture, 3-1 Crosss Of Light, Go For Selt, 7-1 Book At Bedtio	na. 14-1 Lycetty
	199	B: Lade C	sta 3 8 8 Par Eddery 4-11 law (H Cecil) drawn (2) 4 ran	,
	l ~~		FORM GUIDE	

UKGAINE VENTURE is following the same path as the 1992 Celes winner User Friendly in going for this trial having landed the same Sendown maiden last month on her debut. Backed at long odds, she slammed her ten mais, who included Go For Self (third) and Book At at ong opps, sine samment net ten mass, who included up for self (mind) and book At Beddine (fourth), by ten lengths and more. The designier of stip Anchor is a good prospect and should boost her Cales chances by whining this. There is no reason to suppose Go For Salt or Book At Bedtume can overturn the Sandown form, but Lycality could make a race of a with Ukraine Venture if she gets the trip. Runner-up to Calypso Grant in a Kempton Lister race on her return, she ran a fair race in the Italian 1,000 Guineas last time. Crown Of Light landed a Leicester maiden last backend but was only lourth to Syadah in the Pretty Polly Stales at Newmarket on Sunday on her return.

Selection: UKRAINE VENTURE

	3.00 TREPLEPRINT DERBY TRIAL STAKES (GROUP 3) (CLASS A) £50,000 3YO 1m 3f 106yds £31,110	
HYPERION 4.00 Salamah nap) 4.30 Hachiyah	2 920-0 MC(MAE, VIDTURE (25) (3) Floor 5 8 Chap 5 Waste 8 7	-
5.00 Barbason	5 3-1 DURIUSA (I.4) Marcouri: A Melitoner in Struct 5.7	
incom)	1986: Mysic Yangin 3 8 7 L Decor. 4-1 (R Charlton) diczen (2) 6 van	

FORM CUIDE.

TANASA, third to Ottakus over seven furforing at Leccister in October, impressed when besting Spartan Royale over ten furforigh of the farms course on his return lest month. Prerich
champion jockey Other Pealer, who was in the saidle then, has sent that he wants to help
the rade and comes over again. Tanasas handled the soft ground well at Leicaster and was
always cruising. He has a useful turn of foot end can put that to good use over the lorger
one. Slaver Partitainsh is the danger to Tanasas handled the soft ground well at Leicaster and.

Slaver Partitainsh is the danger to Tanasas handled the pace. Successful infoover tan furforigh as a juvenille, on the second occasion in Newmenter's Listed Zedand States.

He was staying on well at the end when that to Voyagers Quest in the Therefore Clease Turat at Sandlown on his return and will rishs every year of the longer trop. A line though Sandown
numer-up Berray the Dap gives Siber Partiarch the narrow edge over Papua, wenner of the
Tattersalis Hougeton Sales race at Newmenter and 6th to Medialay in the Record Post Tropity at Doncaster, Papua showed he stays this trip when a close second to Gratiase at
Newbury and needs to improve again to figure here, write Michael the has the Chance.

Selections TANASA

3	.30	HSBC JAMES CAPEL HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 adde 3YO filles 1m 1f Penalty Value £5,824
1	313-	OUR PEOPLE (190) (Dr Ful To Chang) M Jongson 9 7 D Helland
2		SUPPLY AND DEMAND (G) (D) (Action) G L Moore 9.5
3		SHEER FACE (SA) (A I de V Patrick) W Harr 9 0
4	3160	ORONTES RISA) (211) U A Lazzeli R Harrigo S 11
5	44-51	RESAL PACROL (149) (Seed Subait) M Stocks 8 8
6	0450-0	NOBLE INVESTMENT (23) () C Smith ) Eustace 8 4
7		SWORD ARM (22) (A.E. Opperhement R. Chestern B.4

BZTING: 5-4 Ragai Putrol, 4-1 Our People, 5-1 Supply And Decumed, 7-1 Sword Arm, 8-1 Shear Pace, Orontes, 12-1 Noble Investment

1996: no emissioning ace

SUPPLY AND DEMAND, who attracted the attention of the stewards after an comming in for a sympathetic ride at Doncester in November, his shown improved form this season, whining an Epsom madern (Im 114yds) by two lengths from litting and then going down just a length to Brave Kirs in a 15-temper handlesp at Newmarket on Sunday. The Beliefez gelding has been raised 6th for that latest run, but he is filiely to improve again now that he steps up in distance and can get beach in the winner's enclosure. Regall Petrol is not an easy ride but has shown plenty of ability and made has handlesp debut a whinning one whon getting up close home to bear Apply at Beverley. He is 4th higher today and may not be suffered by the drop in this. Sword Arm was ten lengths off the numer-up when third of 18 to Amid Albadu and Peartree House at Newbury. That form is working out well and Roger Cherton't gelding should give a good account of himself. He meets Orentee 10th better than when beaten three lengths into bouth by Rochard Hannon's numer at Satisbury in August. Our People, successful at Leicester and third of four to River Usk at Newmarket last season, has it to do with top weight in his first handlesp. Selections SUPPLY AND DEMAND

4.	.00	TESTERS OF EDENBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £5,000 added 1m 2f Penaity Value £3,915
1		DANISH RHAPSODY (196) (Ciris Hardy) Lady Herries 4 9 12
2		ENGLE DANCER (MS) (E Restal) Lady Herres 5 9 12
. 3		JOLES SON (Chits J Buckenfeld M Haynes 4 9 12
4	60	VICTOR BILLIM (USA) (17) (R Del Rosano) C Horgen 4 9 12 W Ryen 13
5	Q.	CANADIAN JIVE (341) (Homs Vots Recript D Adodrect 4 9 7R Price 6
6	6-0	CRAVEN HILL (29) (Lord Swayerling) N Graham 3 & 11
7	35-	ESHINAAL (USA) (191) (BF) (Handeri At Makeyumt J Donton 3 & 11
8	60-	MOCHELICATI DRYADER (206) (Mategum Al Majegum) E Dunion 3 8 11. D O'Desphoe (3) 4
9	2	SALANGAS (25) (X Aboules) R Oreston 3 & 11
10	05-	UTALH (194) (Brisn Gubby Ltd) 5 Gubby 3 8 11
11		YAK ALFARAJ Olektrum Al Malcourti M Strute 3 8 11
12	000-5	ZORRO (18) (G George) R M Power 3 8 11
13	0-	SLIPSTREAM STAR (194) (J.C. Smith)   Baking 3 & 8
		= 13 riectoresi =

BETTUNG 9-4 Selector, 9-2 Estatuet, 13-2 Yesk Althorat, 8-1 Decrieb Rhapmody, 10-1 Slipstream Stor. 14-1 Eagle Dencer, Mooalight Insider, 20-1 others 1998: Wot No Fax 3 8 11 W Ryan 50-1 IS Down (nam (S) 12 ran

1996: Wox No Fax 3 8 11 W Ryen 50-1 (S Dovi drawn (S) 12 ran
FORMI GUIDE
SALAMAHI should go one better than when two lengths second to Street General at Newmarket (1m 4f) on his debut last month. The winner's subsequent defeat at odds-on in a Newmarket conditions race has taken some of the shine off that run, but Roger Chartron's Sodier's Wells ook should be good enough. Dentiah Rhappody finished ten lengths clear of the third when half a length numer-up to Ennothed at Newbury in October and may again fill second place. Estimate, that to Entoce at Salsbury and Rift to Desert Horton at Notingham, is another who should figure, along with Michael Stoute's Sedier's Wells newcomer Yalk Alfared, Moodlight lewader caught the eye in sight to Panama City at Ponterfact on his debut lest season and is one to watch with handcass in mant. Selections SALAMAH!

4.30 TESTERS OF EDENBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £5,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,915 1 A SERR HUG (SOD) O & CLEARMAN Lank Harring & 9 17 Declar O'Share B
2 GD BOUNCA POOK DESCRIPTION G-COMEN & WYS (1000 US) (100

This looks a run-of-the-mill merden and it would be no surprise if Henry Cet /'s GENTRESSE This looks a run-of-the-coll merien and it would be no surprise if Herry Colf is GENTALESSE, proved good enough. She at Intif-scarc in the stants is once useful regimen Cursin. Been Hag, fourth of 27 to Questions at Windoor on his debit last Jaly, would have a fair charice on that showing, but it is probably agradicant that John Reid as on Lody Herries' Other runner Height Of Heights, half-brother to the useful Sanous. Hartingto, now with Dand Montes whowed ability in a Newcontil ran for Torn Jones last year, while Sanbaron should improve the his recent Lecenter debut behind Rocky Oasis. Monastifit gove no encouragement when less of 1,5 at Reshir's Newbury race on his debut last month.

Selections GENTILESSE

500 SLP ANCHOR HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 6f

[3	WU	Penalty Value £3,486
1	02000-	YOUDOWESAY (2003) 6DR (Tom Necholis) 7 J Navet-2on 5 10 0
2	030.00	LA PETITE PERSEE (LAS MODE DE 1 Semento 20 Submaro 6 9 11
3	3000-3	MISSER MISSEN (15) (0) (90) France R Hzdas 8 9
4	050.30	DEPERALE (7) (D) (Michael Mattesty D) Month Smith 5 9 6
5	1501-5	HATTURNAL NEW (36) (D) Philips O'Donnesis D Haydo Jones 4 9 5Pat Eddary 2
6	211-14	AUST LOUR (LOU) (D) (A Poole) W.G. II, Turner 3 9 4
7	03124	SEA DANCES (100) (C) (P Cook) 1 States 4 8 13 R Cochrane 3
В	011111	BARBASON (15) (2) F.L. HO, G.L. Moore 5 8 13 Checky More's 10
9	1.000	MR FROSTY (71) (D) (D G Wingho W Janes 5 8 12
10	32230	PASE N SINE (225) IR M Crest C Court 3 8 10
11	34- <del>56</del> 0	SHARP RETURN (5) (D) (Abs Teresa Baron) M Ryan 3 7 13T Sprake 7

EXTINC; 9-4 Barbason, 5-1 Mister Joseon, 6-1 Dentare, 7-1 Rise 'M Skine, 10-1 Natural Kay, 12-1 La Pellis Pesse, Sea Dentag, 14-1 Others.

1996: Penna Sib 5 9 2 T less 7-1 (M Rem) Grant (14) 14 cm

1990: Prima Sik 5 9 2 T less 7-1 (M Rein) down IIA-1 14 as PORM GUIDE. It may be worth chancing that BARBASON handles the bit of out in the ground, such is his form at present. Gary Moone's five-year-old scored three brites on the adversable here in February and Merch and has caused that form over to furf, warring here and at Brighton, most recently beating. Netwest half a length. All those wins have been over seven furfords, but the softer ground means that this should prove a sufficient test of stamma and Burbason remeans on a good math compared to the all-weather. Hatusel Key was thin to Burbason over seven furforgs on burf here less month, beaten just over three lengths, and has 3 9th put. All her wins have been at this trip and she should go close with Pat Eddery booked. Supplin, Air ner with naive peen at mixing and are should go case with hat 2009 occur-Mister blood on certainly handles sould gound well and put up a good performance on his re-cent naturn to be third of 17 to Oggi at Lecester. He is drawn furthest from the rais boda; though, Just Loud has soored four times on the all-weather since he last ran on burf. It re-mains to be seen whether he can reproduce his best but the form of his stable means a break since January should not be a problem. See Dentalg had Barbason over three lengths back in fourth when winning on the all-weather here in January and is 8th better off, but this trip is Riely to prove too short for him. We Proofly has gained all his wins on the all-weath-er but should not be written off with Frankie Detton in the saddle, while Dembrae may leave betand him his poor run at Newmarket last time and had been a close time of 18 to East.

em Prophets on his reappearance at Kempton.

Selection: BARBASON

Clive Brittain sends the globe-trotting Needle Gun to Rome on Sunday for his third crack at the Premio Presidente della Repubblica. Brett Doyle's mount, second in the Group One contest in 1994 and last year, is out to make the most of the defection of Geoff Wragg's Sasuru. A field of eight go to post for the mile-and-a-quarter event, with Group-winning pair Taxi De Nuit (Michael Hills) and Grey Way the main home-trained dangers. Ray Cochrane has been booked to ride useful German performer Artan, Brittain also runs the Diadem Stakes fourth Sylva Paradise in the Group Three Premio Melton over six furlongs on e card.

### ground," Prescott said. Apart from that, everything is covered.

2.15 Skelton Sovereign 2.45 Carlton 3.15 Quilling 3.45 First Maite 4.15 Indiscreet 4.45 Dirab GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places). STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f & 7f 100yds.

BEVERLEY

STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGES: High for 51 & 71 (1017) is.

Right-hand, galloping course with very stiff 54.

Course is 1m W of town on A1035. Bus service from Beverley station (Hull - Searborough line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 112; Junior Club 110 to 21-year-olds) 58; Tattersalls 58; Silver Ring 53; Course Enclosure 52; Pienic area 52 or 53 per car, plus 52 per

COURSE ENCOURSE 2017 FRAME AND ASSOCIATION OCCUPANT. CAR PARK: Prec. BLINKERED FIRST TREE: Noirie (2.45), Winston (3.15), Law-RS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Golden Hadeer (4.45)

won at Hamilton on Thursday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Yaviensky (4.15) sent 245 miles A F KIPLINGCOTE SELLING STAKES (CLASS

Ľ	.15	F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 2f
1	2-5500	BALL-PET (17) J Parkes 8 12
2	000-00	CAPTAIN FLINT (12) A Smith 8 12
3	0-0050	FATHER EDDE: (12) J J O'Neil 8 12
4	ū	GUARD A DREAM (12) Mrs M Reveloy 8 12 A Cuthana 9
5	334043	SKELTON SOVEREGA (2) (2) R Hobrishead 8 12 F Lynch (2) 6
6	6-606	ARBOREAL (USA) (12) Mrs L Stubbs 8 7S Sanders 8
7	0005-0	FOOLISH FLURTIER (32) R Bastimen B 7 Date Septon 4
8	00	MARYS PATH (12) 5 Golongs 8 7Paul Ebbery 3
9	605660	MISSED MAY (12) 8 Baugh 8 7R Winston (7) 5
10	305035	ROCHEA (12) Mrs N Macauley 8 7S Webster 11
	~	DOW IT DOOR 1496 On I Course 0.7 HE French 4

BETTING: 2-1 Stellon Sovereign, 4-1 Beli-Pet, 5-1 Ruches, 9-1 Foolish Finiter, 10-1 Fether Eddle, 12-1 Guard A Dreson, Rock R Rose, 14-1 Ar-bereal, 18-1 Captain Filmt, 20-1 others

00 ROCK IT ROSIE (12) Dr J Scarpil 8 7 ..

E VENTURE Into debut last season and is one to watch t	with handicaps in mind. Selection: SALAMAH THE SAIDE
🖃 HYPAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000	D 13 206-06 UP IN FLAMES (78) (D) S Booking 68 10 S Web
HYPAC HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3YO 7f 100yds	14 2244-4 BOH LUCK (18) J Bernett 5 B 10
000 RUDE AWAKENING (14) C Farituss 9 7 Dean McKeown 9	, 15 425-50 GOUDEN TAUNDERBOLT (FR) (29) N Tinker 48 9 J We
100- BOLLERO (238) J Berry 9 4	7 15 2143AV GERUNEJARN (124) 143AS 488OU
COS- CORRU EXPRESS (199) T Etherngon 9 4 1 Chernock 2	* It ITTMS WHOMEN (I (N) ) FOLGS (
000 NOTRIE (5) M Britain 9 1	
5-03 IN GOOD NICK (21) M W Essety 9 0	
655 CHARRY (UA) (D) R Holleshead 90	
13-0 HALAT (AS) N Galtern 8 13	O Street 19.1 Second December Company
303 MARDREW (11) T Clement 8 12	In 42.5 Tale Complex 45.5 Millerton No Alleber 20.4 Dec   and

40-000 MUNGO PARA (11) Mis J Ramaden 8 10 \_\_\_\_\_ J Portune 13 000- SINGER ROGERS (165) D Attustnot 8 9 \_\_\_\_\_ C Plotter 13 640-23 DONT WORRY MISS (146) (8F) F Lee 8 8 \_\_\_\_ A Culture 15 15-000 LECEND OF ARAGON (11) (8F) J Gover 8 7 \_\_\_ G Duffield 14 

	Good Nick, 16-1. Don't Werry Miles, Noirie, Al Ava Couscount, Rode Await- ening, 20-1. others				
3	15	ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH SERIES H'CAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 100yds			
1	401-50	KALA SUNRISE (21) (D) C Smith 4 10 0			
2	800-06	TERTINA (7) (CD) N Ware 5 9 11			
3	400-52	SHINGEROLLA (LLS) (D) (BF) C Parker 599 D R McCabe 3			
4		HIGH PROMIN (7) (D) (BF) R Falley 998_R Winston (7) 15			
5		QUELLING (15) M Dods 5 9 5F Lynch (3) 12			
6		SMARTER CHARTER (15) (CD) (6F) Mrs L SLEDS 4 9 2			
		S Sandors 8			
7	2140.5	FRANK WAN MAN I Construe 4 A 4 B. Warden A			

BETTRIC: 7-2 Carlton, S-1 Mardrew, 6-1 Mango Park, 7-1 Shers

3-0060 ROYAL RESULT (USA) (7) (D) T D Barron 4 9 1..... K Darley 19 

ebster 1 John 17 Heaver 4 Urbica 5 er 13 B

tine John, 25-1 others

3	.45	WELLIAM HELL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 5f	
L	243623	BROKOSTARS BEAUTY (15)-60 D Straw 79 12 C Yangun (5) 8 B	
2	0-0516	FIRST MAITE (7) (CD) S Bourng 4 9 11 8 Webster 16 B	
3	212044	SQUIRE CORRECTED [D) D Crapman 5 9 8 A Culture 13	
ā	05-000	INSIDER TRADER (7) (D) Mrs J Romsden 6 9 7 J Fortune 3	
5	550200	DANKDE PLYER (15) (04 D Arbuthnot 4 9 7	
6		SIE ME (122) D Notoes 5 8 12	
7	40-100	LOCKHHURN LADY (3) (D) K Hogg 3 8 1D	
_	THE RE	Marie marie 12 and 15 a	

SE (12) (D) M W Easterty 4 8 7 J Lucas 12 B 

- 19 declared -Affinitum weight; 7st 10th. Thus handles weight: Thick As Thieses 7st 7th.
BETTIME: 6-1 busider Trader, 11-2 First Malt, 6-1 Broadstains Beauty, Campomeur, 10-1 Squire Corrie, 12-1 Sound The Trumpet, 14-1 Sounders West, Sonderies, Sopreficial, 16-1 Finymaker, Dande Figur, Lock Harn Lady, Ned's Bonassa, Blossingtollagsies, 20-1 others 4.15 BLACK MILL STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 aidded 3YO 1m 2f DE12-4 YAMLENSKY (149 J Durings 9 5 1. INDISCREET (CAN) (281) D Loter 9 1... 2-1 BARBA PAPA (18) L Camera 8 12 ..... BETTNIR: 4-9 Indiscrept, 3-1 Barbs Papa, 5-1 Yardensky

A A BURTON BUSHES HANDICAP (CLASS E)

4	.45	£5,000 added 2m 35yds
1	1144-6	RUSHEN RADER (5) (CD) K Hogg 5 10 0 A Daily (5) 15
2	10-354	DRAS (14) (D) TD Barran 4 9 11
3	6412-0	FRENCH NY (USA) (29) (CD) F Murphy 10 9 9 J Femiling 20
4	52120-	HULLBANK (215) (CD) VI Hagts 7 9 7 Tabe 2
5	5132-2	MANAGENE PLICHT RISKI (15) (CD) C Smith 4 9 6.1 Wester 1
6	210-00	CHRISTS LND (12) (D) B Meetan 5 9 5
7	30000	GYNCRAK TIGER (19) G Holmes 7 8 13Alex Greaves 12
8	01-000	ARCADY (11) / L Hams 4 8 13 Peol Eddery 9
9	10-030	HE'S GOT WINGS (11) (D) Mrs J Parristen 4 8 7J Fortune 8 V
10	340446	EL NEDO (33) (0) D Chapman 9 8 7 A Coltisse 16
11		ANCHORENA (6) D Baker 5 8 7
12	000/11	KINOKO (29) (CD) K Hogg 9 8 6
13		MUDIARX (140) J Notion 5 7 13
14	2000Q/	SHARP TO DELIKE (18) R Whitaker 10 7 10 D Wilgot 14
15	321521	GOLDEN HADEER (2) (D) M Ryan 6 7 10(4ex M Baird (3) 1.3
16	/00-53	ROMALIFO (29) M Bionshard 7 7 10
17		GMCRAK CIRANO (0150) N Crambellan 8 7 10 -N Kennedy 11
18		CONTRARGE (44) M Ryan 4 7 10
19		TOP PRIZE (12) (CD) M 2:13:n 9 7 10
20	002-4	LAMPUL LOVE (18) T Downelly 7 7 10

– 20 declared – Minimum weight; 7st 10th, True handicap weights: Golden Heiber 7st 9th, Ro-malito 7st 9th, Gymerait Cyrano 7st 4th, Contrane 7st 3th, Top Proce 7st 2th, Landal Love 7st 28b.

BETTING: 4-1 Ne's Got Wings, 9-2 Golden Hadenr, 6-1 Rhecke, 7-1 Dirab, 10-1 Arcady, Chris's Lad, Jameican Flight, 12-1 Romafto, French by, 16-1 Rashan Raider, Anchorena, 16-1 Hallbertt, 20-1 others

land Way

HYPERION 2.20 Eastcliffe 2.50 Bold Statement 3.20 Real Tonic 3.50 Nonlos 4.20 Whaat Fettle 4.50 High-

GOING: Good to Firm.

Leil-hand, undulating course, Run-m of 250yd.

Course is on minor read 3m S of Hecham. Supposed from town.
Hecham station 2m. ADMISSION: Cath 58: Paddock 56 (OAPs 41. CAR PARK: Free

BLINERED FIRST TIME: Nonice (3.50). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: None LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Edstone (2.50) & Aliest (3.20) sent 130 miles by J Curps from Beeford, Humberside.

2.20 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 3m 

BETTWIC: 2-1 Eastellife, 4-1 Pappa Charle, 5-1 Mistar Trick, 13-2 Chill Factor, 6-1 Element City, 10-1 Theombour Estate, 20-1 Caramoney, Priendly by Society, Rye Rum, Tartan Joy, Meadowleck

2.50 PENSHER SECURITY DOORS NIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 

WAVER LANE M Barnes 4 10 4 RETTRIC: 2-1 Bold Statement, 3-1 Silver Mirx, 10-1 Buckley He ict Man, Elliott The Batter, Startle Sam, 12-1 Weapons Free, 16-1 others

3.20 BISHOPS SAMMER MUNICIPAL SM 15 CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 3m 1f 

0023211 EXEMPLAR IS No. 5 South 9 11 2. 

BETTING: 7-4 Resi Toolo, 5-1 Exempter, Perfora Prince, 7-1 Plenthob, 12-1
Allest, Just For Me, Festival Pancy, 16-1 others

3.50 LORD'S TAVERNERS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,375 added 2m

_		/,,
1	442000	IN A MOMBRY PUSA, (7) (CD) C Grant 6 11 7P Novem
2	F-2P0P	KASIRAMA (22) M Harrmand 8 11 0R Garatty
3	224460	HONOUS (16) (EF) G M Moore 6 11 C
4		OVER STATED (7) J Wade 7 11 0
5	5P1144	PALACE OF GOLD (49) (0): L Jungo 7 11 0
6	50000	TEDDY EDWIND (10) Mrs A Naughton 7 11 OMr T J Berry (7)
7		TIOTNO [7] C Paster 7 11 0 D Paster
8	30620P	NOR ESPRIT (14) J Cart 4 10 9
9		SUSELUA (16) J Jefferson 6 10 9
		- 9 declared ~

Tiotac, Noir Esprit, 12-1 in A Memeri, 20-1 others

4 20	IAN STRA	KER MEM	ORIAL HICA	P CHASE
+.20	(CLASS F	KER MÉM ) £4,000 a	dded 2m 1	10yds

0P3402 WHAAT FETTLE (10) (C) G Richards 12 12 0 ..... 31336F TWIN FALLS (7) (D) G M Moore 6 11 8 \_\_\_\_\_\_ N Beatley B 506040 SUPER SANDY (37) (CD) F Walton 10 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_K Johnson SPIPAU SUPERMARRIE (LO) B Macraggar 11 10 0.....

Alfrimum weight: 10sr. True handicap weights: Cardenden 9sr 118s. Super Sandy BETTING: 5-4 Whast Fettle, 4-1 Tapatch, 5-1 Tela Palls, Cardo Super Sandy, 18-1 Supermarine

4.50 BISHOPS SKINNER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f 110yds

1/PO-P MOREOF A GURBIER (18) (D) J M Jederson 7 11 10R Guzzkty 502333 HEGHLAND WAY (2) (C) M Tochsmer 9 11 4C McCommeck (7) 1604-6 JUMBO STAR (196) J Deon 7 10 9 ...... - 54004) DONT FORSET CURTIS (10) Mrs K Lamb 5 10 1986: \$ Lamb (7)

- 6 declared SETTING: 5-2 Poisce Of Gold, 3-1 Manies, 6-1 Kasirean, 7-1 Socolia, 8-1
Tiotae, Noir Esprik, 12-3 in A Mannest. 20-1 others

#### eso Glacce 114 ping Bounty 10-1 9-1 ententic Follow 10-1 11/1 Dances With Drooms 12-1 10:1 12-1 14-1

LINGFIELD 2.00: LOCHANGEL, who made all the running to win the Blue Seal Stakes by threequarters of a length from Corsini over of at Ascot last September, has plenty of scope and should make a useful three-year-

old. Sambac may prove the main

French 2,000 Guineas

danger. 2.30: UKRAINE VENTURE, who npressed when beating Alcalali by 10 lengths in a Sandown maiden event over 1m 2f recently, looks a smart prospect for middle-distance events. Lycility may pose the most



French 1,000 Guineas

11.1

11-1

3.00: SILVER PATRIARCH, (a) from disgraced in finishing two lengths third to Voyagers Quest and Benny The Dip in the Group Three her Classic Trial over 1m 2f at Sandown on his reappearance, should be fitter for that and will be suited by this longer trip.

TRIPLEPRINT DERBY TRIAL - 10-YEAR-TALE  1987 88 89 90 91 82 83 94 95 96 Settle of the favourites: 1 1 2 4 7 1 5 3 1 24 Wanner's place in betting: 1 1 2 2 0 1 0 3 1 3 Starting-prices: 56 56 52 94 92 94 141 51 56 41 Profit or less to £1 status Favouriths £125 Second Favourites. £3.25 Percentage of statusers placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race; 90%.
Percendiate of whether place in betting: 1 1 2 4 2 1 5 3 1 24 Whiten's place in betting: 1 1 2 2 0 1 0 3 1 3 Starting-prices: 58 56 52 94 92 94 141 51 56 41 Profit or loss to £1 status: Favourities £1.25 Second Favourities £3.25
Warner's place in betting: 1 1 2 2 0 1 0 3 1 3 Starting afficed: 56 56 56 52 94 92 94 141 51 56 41 Profit or loss to £1 stake: Percentitiv £1.25 Second Fevrourites £3.25 Percentition of interiors placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 80%
Startinggations: 56 56 52 94 92 94 141 51 56 41 Profit or less to £1 stake: Percentitiv £1.25 Second Fevrourites £3.25 Percentitive of wherever placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 80%
Proceedants of whenors placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 60%
Shortest-priced wireer: Legal Bid (1987). Ketyes (1988), Murecr (1995) 5-6 Longest-priced wireer: Bobs Return (1993) 14-1
Top trainer: M Stoute: - Rock Hopper 11990, Hower's News (1994)

### WORCESTER

2.10 Kinnecash 2.40 Rich Life 3.10 Euro Singer 3.40 Nova Champ 4.10 The Tolseach 4.40 Macgeorge 5.10 Rupert Blues 5.40 Country House GOING: Good to Firm.

Left-hand course, level with long straights, easy turns and a flurlong run-in.

Course is on the A443 by the River Severn. Worcester (Foregate 81) station 1 m. ADMOSSION: Members \$12.50; Tattersulls 50.50; Course 55 (OAPs 52.50). CAR PARK: Free; picnir area parking 52.50. BLINKEEED FIRST TIME: Our Robert (vivoted) (5.10), Better

Pature (4.40 WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Walls Court (2.40) won at Warwick on Saturday; Nova Champ (3.40) won at Here-ford on Saturday; Trust Deed (3.40) won at Excer on Monday. LONG-DISTANCE HUNNERS: Walls Court (2.40) sent 211 miles by I Birkett from High Seaton, Cumbria; Farmey Glea (3.40) sent 211 miles by J J O'Neill from Skelton Wood End, Cumbria.

2.10 HOLLY GREEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 470 2m

022114 KINNESCASH (7) (D) (BF) P Bowen 11 12....... M A Florgerick 

scash, 6-2 influence Pedier, 3-1 Thrichev, 18-1 Ro-2.40 GREAT MALVERN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 4f 110yds

OSF42P ASTRAL INVA \_\_\_\_W Mar: 22-364 CRANE HILL (49) P Hotos 7 11 0

BETTING: 3-1 With impunity, 9-2 Rich Life, 7-1 Crane Hill, 8-1 Walls Court, Desort Brave, 10-1 Hangover, The Eurgeman, Who Am I, 12-1 others

3.10 HORSERACE LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,925 added 2m 

Minimum weight: 10st. True henditap weights: No Lowy 9st 13th, Molle Sil-BETTING: 4-1 Earn Singer, Stay With Me, 11-2 Motazz, 13-2 For 8-1 Our Robert, Duily Sport Girl, Chappic Pal, 10-1 others

3.40 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' H'CAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,475 added 2m 7f 110yds 

Minimum weight 10st. True handicap weights: Golden Opal 9st 11b., Booking i 952 80. NG: 7-2 Nove Cheurp, 7-1 Trust Deed, No Fidding, 8-1 River Leven, Martell Boy, Court Master, Famey Glen, Lay R Olf, 12-1 others

4.10 INA BEARING COMPANY H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 3m 

- 6 deciares -Manimum weight; 10st. Thie handisay weight; Needwood Poppy 9st 12th. BETYME: 13-8 The Tolerach, 11-4 General Moulton, 8-2 Dening Bridge, 7-1 Needwood Poppy, 10-1 So Proud, Bullens Bay 4.40 SUCKLEY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 7f 110yds

214431 DREAM RIDE (28) D Nicholson 7 12 0 ..... 

- 12 declared -SETTING: 2-1 Macgoorge, 5-1 Dream Ride, Kessikova, 8-1 Molnik, Glos-gonff Ght, 10-1 Lion De Famille, 12-1 Five Flags, 25-1 others

5.10 LONGDON INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV I) £1,500 added 2m . TRUPERT BLUES (38) (20) / Hing 5 11 11 ...,Nr Q McPhall (7) BERNERA J Macke 5 11 4 Electric Gastle of Light Macker 5 11 4 Macker 5 11 4 Macker 5 11 4 Macker 6 11 4 Macker 6 11 Macker 6 1 CLOUDY BELL Mass, H Knight 5 11 4...

da Groovy, Jumbo Star, Dont Fundst Cortis CONCROBOR K Balley 5 11.4. ODERVIEWS (Same) 5 11.4 W WARM (7)
DEPUTY LEADER IN HENGERON 5 11.4 L. W WARM (7)
OD FRANGE WICK (100) N T-Daves 5 11.4 L. W Weighter (7)
SF. RANE GET (USA) (SSO) D Nicroison 8 11.4 L. R Minney (2)
RIGHT ROW BURN F Murphy 5 11.4 L. Aspell (3) ROKER JOKER R Pescock 6 11 4 ... UF- SCHLLY BLUE (369) B Pre WHISTLDIP JAKE T FORSE 6 11 4 .... ...Mr R Berës BARROW ISLS Brookstree 5 10 13 .... ........X Alzpuru (5) ....Sopisie Militatechi (3) DEEP C DIVA / Old 5 10 13.... DUNASRATTO D Thom 4 10 13 .... 00 OUTRACEOUS AFFAIR (7) A James 5 10 13...... McSee (3) 2597 THE MESTA P Ecolog 5 10 13 ...... = 19 declared =

BETTING: 9-2 Deputy Louder, 12-2 Report Sheek, 7-1 Cloudy 68, ( Deep C Diva, 8-1 Rare GR., 12-1 Right Ron Run, Whisting Joke, 18-1 cit-

5.40 LONGDON INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) (DIV II) £1,500 added 2m A VERSE TO ORDER Miss P Writin 6 11 4 Mr J Goldstein (7) D Salter (6) JUTS WEDDING B Milman 6 11 4... C LIGHTENING STEEL (38) D Caro 6 11 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Nor A Principal CESEDIAN Miss K George 5 11 4 .... 0 PAPERPRINCE (902) (87) A Hobbs 5 11 4\_\_\_\_\_... Bistroms (5) TREAT SEE BOLD P Source 5 11 4 ...... Committee (7) 0- TURE SCORCHER (378) N Berry 6 11 4 \_\_\_ 2 COUNTRY HOUSE (See (BF) J Old 6 10 13 Sophie Mileshell (3) 6 DANCING IN RIO (31) | P Waishe 5 10 13 \_\_\_\_ L Subhern (7) LUCKY TOUCH W War 4 10 13 \_\_\_\_ L Aspel (3) PARALYN S Broketow 5 10 13 X Appers (5)

SWEET UTTLE BRAR (14) G Bravey 6 10 13 S Ryan (5) THE REPRY LEDGENO N Clance 4 10 13 ....... Scudder (7) 

0 LADY 8000 (77) F Coton 4 10 8 BETTENG: 5-2 Country House, 8-1. Scing Primitive, Holine Away, 12-1 Trea Mr. Bold, Lucky Touch, Pamalyn, The Kerry Ledgend, 15-1 others

PILKINGTON CUP FINAL: Nine years in the trenches have taken their toll of spirited performer

## Morris reaches point of no return

hey will converge by the busload on Twickenham today to bid Dewi Morris the fondest of farewells: family, friends and bleary-eyed drinking partners from Crickhowell and Crewe, Wigan and Warrington, old-fashioned Orrell and salubrious Sale. A popular lad, our Dewi; indeed, if popularity could be translated into tries and conversions, there would be no earthly point in Leicester turning up for this af-

ternoon's Pilkington Cup final. Should Morris leave his favourite stadium with a first winner's medal, it is just possible that his personal battalion of vociferous supporters will give his already successful business career another leg up by sinking a bottle or two of Black Death vodka. It would, however, be asking a bit much of them to drink enough to solve their hero's most pressing profes-sional difficulty; 10 million cases of the stuff would constitute the mother of all bangovers.

We've got a bit of a problem with Boris Yeltsin at the moment," Morris explained at the end of another long day in which he had just about managed to balance the demands of his job as his company's national sales manager with his more familiar role as Sale's vibrantly enthusiastic scrum-half. "A year ago, we were exporting between eight and 10 million cases of vodka to Russia annually. Then the president slapped a ban on it. No more vodka imports, full stop. We're still selling them gin, but it's not quite the same."

From today onwards, Morris will spend rather more of his time pondering the plusses and minuses of the vodka flowchart. He has yet to slam the door completely on his playing career - he has two seasons left on his Sale contract - but it looks increasingly likely that he will invoke his get-out clause and call it a day after this last hurrah against the Tigers. "You can go on and on in this game but there comes a time," he said with just a trace of sadness in his voice.

This is probably the end. "I simply can't do it all again next season, not to the extent I've done it this time. I'm 33, not 23, and while my employers have been good to me throughout my rugby life it's becoming physically impossible to perform both jobs professionally. Anyway, I'm not

The popular Sale scrum-half tells Chris Hewett this will be his last big game - probably

tive for 12 months after the 1995 World Cup and it's difficult to get all the way back to peak condition after a lay-off like that."

Happily, Morris will not leave the stage in a state of advanced burn-out, as he did two years ago. He has found his Indian summer every bit as invigorating as he had hoped when he took the plunge and returned to top-flight rugby last August; and with a daughter of seven months to contend with at home, his celebrated zest for life is in full flood once again.

"It's not a case of my body insisting that I retire. Quite honestly. I don't feel anywhere near as tired as I did after the World Cup. God, I was shattered after that. I'd gone round the training track and done

'We've got a bit of a problem with Boris Yeltsin at the moment'

the weights that many times, made so many sacrifices in so many different ways, that when we left South Africa I said to myself: 'That's it. All over, Let's go back to life and start living again.' I don't feel that way now.

"In fact, I'd love to stay involved with Sale in some capacity because they're doing things the right way. I'd be lying if I said the financial package had nothing to do with my decision to come out of retirement - of course it did - but I agreed to play because I knew the club was being run professionally and that we'd be fully competitive. That was very important to me; it's no fun being kicked up the arse every Saturday afternoon, no matter how much you're being paid."

Nine years in the trenches have left their mark. Three broken noses, a comprehensively problems with both knees, as fit as I was. I was fairly inac- stretched and strained ligaments. I'd love to be 23 all over again."

in his right ankle and, at the start of this season, a busted rib or two courtesy of a big hit at West Hartlepool; that is a heavy toll in anyone's language and although the latter injury gave Morris some unexpected quality time with baby Jessica, the price tag is becoming seriously inflationary. Yet even in last week's ferocious battle royal with Leicester at Heywood Road, sheer enjoynt was the name of the game.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of this season has been working with John Mitchell, whose contribution as director of rugby has been huge. I'm glad I never had to play against him, that's for sure. There is no arrogance about the man - quite the opposite, because any reference to his own achievements has to be dragged from him but he has brought a hard winning edge to the club and that makes all the effort worthwhile. Tve always taken the view that rugby games are there to be won. With John in place here, all that old English 'Don't worry, chaps, it's only a game nonsense has gone for good. We've got the New Zealand attitude now and it's making things happen for us. That's why I'll be around in some shape or form next season - if, of course, John can find a use for me."

Whether Sale's eager embrace of Mitchell's stern All Black virtues will guide them home against Leicester this afternoon is a moot point, but Morris is in no doubt that his side has struck a chord with the wider rugby public. "Without being funny, I think a Sale victory would be good not only for the North-west, where it would help attract new investment, bigger signings and better crowds, but for every rugby-playing area outside Leicester itself. You could go round every club in the land right now, ask them who they want to win and receive the same answer. I don't think we have any enemies out there and that is how it should be.

"Even though Twickenham is not quite the place it was before the rebuild, it is still a magnificent stage to go out on. Mind you, I'll be a bag of nerves before kick-off; I may have been around a fair old time but I still feel physically sick before a big game and it seems to get worse with age. I won't miss that side knackered left shoulder joint, of rugby one little bit but I have to admit that given the choice,



### **Turner keeps** the heat turned on

ANDY FARRELL reports from Thame

Greg Turner went sough about his business, replete in his thermals and long johns, to maintain his lead in the Benson and Hedges International with a second-round 68. The New Zealander leads a pack of players who represent the transitional nature of the European Tour.

At nine under, Turner, who holed a testing four-footer for par at the last during a flash rain-storm, is one ahead of Bernhard Langer, who continued his impressive play in winning the Italian Open with a 66, the South African Retief Goosen and Ross McFarlane.

Two strokes back is Darren Clarke, the 28-year-old Irishman, who could have been even better but for bogeys at the last two holes. Much the same could be said of a short career which has seen two victories but promised more. He has been caught up by the likes of Lee Westwood, who shares the same manager and coach and who is among those on six under with his playing partner, Ian Woosnam.

Woosnam is seriously thinking about following Langer's lead in turning to the long putter. The details of his 68 were swiftly sum-marised: a putt from 10 feet for an eagle at the 11th, a two-putt birdie at the par-five seventh and a six-footer for another birdie at 13. He missed four other birdie chances from inside 10 feet but, despite his lack of confidence on the greens, the Welshman has not dropped a shot in two days.

"A 68 was the worst I could do today," Woosnam said. "It's get-ting frustrating." While he contemplates a move to lengthen his putter, going back to an old driver of 43 and a half inches has helped his long game. "I can't handle the long ones," said the short man of golf.

The game has moved on. however, and Woosnam was consistently beaten off the tee by Westwood by 40 yards. Westwood may not be in the Tiger Woods league - no one is - but he can unleash a 360-yard drive. "He was hitting it miles past

me," Woosnam said. "He's got the length, he's a good putter, all his game's good at the moment. If he keeps playing like that he's going to be a star. Well, he is a

The 24-year-old from Workson has won in Sweden. Japan – do well in the US Onen J and Malaysia in the last nine ably won't be coming."

months, as well as finishing 24th in his debut at the US Masters. "I haven't played with Lee for 18 months and he's improved a kot. He has got a bit of confidence, he's young, playing well. he's making money, what worres

would he have?"
Actually, like Woosnam, Westwood would like to have holed a few more putts rather than recording two rounds of 69. "I should be 14 or 15 under," be said. "I have putted like a chump." Yet Westwood clearly has something about him, above the solid foundations set in place by his coach, Peter Cowen. "It's always nice when your tellow professionals say you're playing well," Westwood said. "Their word means more than anyone

else because they/ve been there." Westwood and Clarke are 11th and fifth in the Ryder Cup standings and are two young players that Seve Ballesteros would like to see in his team at Valderrama. That conditions were improved - there were moments when the wind almost died away and the sun was glimpsed briefly - could be seen from the scoring. Eduardo Romero beat the course record by two with his 65, and Ballesteros did not drop a

shot in his 69. This is the first time the Spaniard has achieved the feat in 1997 and means he has made the cut for the second tournament in a row.

BEISSON AND REDGES INTERNATIONAL OPEN (TNAME) Early second round women (68 or in trainess stated): 136 G Turner (N2) 67 88, 136 B Langer (Cent 70 65 R Goosen (SA) 69 67; R McFadane 70 66, 137 D Centre 69 EB, 138 L, Westwood 69 ER; I Wootsman 70 68; E Romen (Arr) 73 65, 340 S Luns (Sp) 77 07; P Machael 69 71, 141.C Montgomens 70 71; I Gammod (59-7) Surenon (Sp. 71. 71.; Hormas GB 71. 14.2 P Gun-or (Swit 71. 11.) Haeggram (Swe) 72. 70. N Fush (Swe) 70. 72. 14.3 P McCanley, 72. 71.; D Gatton 71. 72. M Barnes 73. 70. 144 S. Arres (fron 74. 70. S Cage 74. 70; S Toutance 74. 70; R Green (Just 75. 62. A Globour 75. 65. S Allan 49.65) 72. 72. P Dases (Aust 73. 71. M Jorzam (Swer 74. 70; D Lee 73. 71; S Febt 75. 69. Alla 5 Rochartson 73. 72. B Lane 74. 71; F Bacobson (Swer. 75. 70. 146. D Cote (Aust 73. 72. C Whatelaw (Sw. 75. 70. 146. D Cote (Aust 73. 72. C Whatelaw (Sw. 75. 70. 72. OL C Duke 77. 69; P Haugsrud (Non. 75. 71. 147. D Hestald (Sol. 77. 70. M A Michary (Sol. 71. 75: PPTOP 72 F3: R BORGE 11 F0, F1 MARIN WHAT
72 74: J PHORO 150; F5 72: S Scalin M27 F5 71.
148 A Cabristo Whyt 76 F72: S Scalin M27 F5 71.
148 A Cabristo Whyt 76 F72: M Campbelt p60; T5
73; D Chopra (Suel 73 75, 148 C Vibro 92 67;
R Chaydon 77 72: K Briesson (Suel 72 77; R Vise;
sels, ISA) 74 75; P Setton 75 74, J Robson 72
77, 150 P Lornard Mach 75 75; P Cury 77 73. M
Tunnodif 75 75. M Machentoe 76 74; R Lee 76
74, 141.8 (Longhum 75 76, 132 R Russel 74 75;
P Way 75 77; S Grophasonnu (th 75 77; G Scans
80 72, 153 A Medinck (Suen 79 74 Wildelinese

Jack Nicklaus indicated yesterday that he will not compete in the Open Championship at Troon in July. He will make a decision after the US Open next month. "I have entered but I am not sure about playing, probably not," he said. "My game is not in very good shape and unless I

### Leicester look to punish Sale's zealotry

D Morris.

S Diamond

D Erskina

D Baldwin

| Mitchell

D O'Grady.

3 A Smith.

**CHRIS HEWETT** 

Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle willing, English club rugby's final piece of unfinished business will this afternoon be decided by boots rather than suits, power running as opposed to power politics. Almost for the first time in a season befuddled and betraved by talking heads, actions have an outside chance of speaking louder than words. Who knows? It could be the

Even so, the most influential figure in what promises to be a ferocious Pilkington Cup final between Leicester and Sale is unlikely to be a player at all. Brian Campsall, the international referee from Yorkshire, will be under extreme pressure from both sides - not to mention the 75,000 spectators sardined into Twickenham - to give today's showpiece a chance to breathe.

Unfortunately, Campsall cannot expect to please everyone, as Ed Morrison, his colleague on the England Test panel, discov-

ered to his cost in last weekend's ruthless league set-to between the two clubs at Heywood Road. The modern breed of professional player regards the law as an ass and spends the lion's share of his time trying to kick it. And who was forced to soak up the barbs and accusations as the dust settled on a wild and unruly encounter? You guessed it. The referee.

Bob Dwyer, the Leicester coach, confidently expects today's match to be played out on a far broader canvas than the one in evidence seven days ago and Campsall, for one, would be happy to see that prediction proved correct.

O N Malone N C Joiner... . 14 D Rees. 12 J Baxen S Potter LLicyti. . 11. T Beim . 10 S Mannix

According to John Mitchell. however, the final will differ little from the league confrontation. Sale's severe and unsparing director of rugby, who plays at No 8 today in the absence of the injured Charlie Vvvvan, anticipates a merciless scrap for the loose ball and tion of the ruck laws will be central to the outcome.

**LEICESTER V SALE** 13 A Hadley

J Stransky · R Cockerill D Garforth. D. M. Johnson (capt). E M Poole..

Reféree: & Campsall (Yorkshire):

just as we did last Saturday, but

injury victim, John Fowler, the northerners have more than a nuncher's chance of landing a first knock-out title and deny-

Morris: 'You can go on and on in this game... This is probably the end'

(9ck off: 3.0 (Sky Sport: 2.0).

"We will go out there in search of quick ruck possession. one of Leicester's key attributes is their ability to slow opposition ball and they are repeatedly allowed to get away with it," the former All Black

my mind, it's one of the major problems facing English rugby. You need quick ball if the game is going to develop and the ref-

erees have to play their part in making it happen." If Mitchell gets his way in the loose and the Sale line-out

ing Leicester their fifth. Until their slippage in form last month, the Tigers' defence simonious in the English game, but Sale's intrepid back line, in-

absence of another long-term

was regarded as the most parspired by Jos Baxendell's coninring tricks in midfield and Jim Mallinder's running from fullback, created enough havoc last week to suggest that Leicester have yet to plug those recently opened holes.

Mitchell, described by the

Sale chief executive. Howard Thomas, as "the most focused individual I've ever encountered", is in no doubt that his exciting outside runners can deliver once again, but he has been forced to fight a week-long battle against over-enthusiasm bordering on zealotry. "It's important to keep everyone's feet firmly on the ground, but it's not easy because the whole side is

admitted. "Victory at Twickenham in my first season here would be so special.

The worry for Mitchell is that his opponents finally rediscovered some poise and equilibrium last weekend in reeling in a 17-point deficit and escaping from Cheshire with a 20-20 draw, not to mention the Heineken Cup place on which Sale had set their hearts. Given the importance of the occasion and the hostility of the home crowd, it was an outstanding effort by the Midlanders and a startling confirmation of Martin Johnson's captaincy credentials in advance of the Lions tour.

Johnson's resourcefulness. Joel Stransky's big-game temperament and the return of the brilliant Will Greenwood at inside centre all point to a Leicester triumph, perhaps by a double figure margin. But Twickenham has done them few favours in recent seasons and the Tigers may yet require another allembracing cameo appearance from Dean Richards to extract the wind from the Sale.

### **Progress of Haas** impresses Becker

Germany may have unearthed new talent in 19-year-old Tommy Haas, who overcame his second seeded opponent in four days yesterday to reach the semi-finals of the German Open in Hamburg. Haas, who left school less

than a year ago and entered the tournament as a wild card, beat the Spanish clay-court specialist. Alberto Berasategui, the French Open runner-up three years ago, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the de-light of 12,000 local supporters in the Rothenbaum stadium.

On Wednesday, the 123rdranked Haas beat the thirdseeded Spaniard, Carlos Moya, the Australian Open finalist, in straight sets and even Boris Becker has been impressed. "He has the potential to get into the top 50 or even higher

- very soon." Becker, who has helped train Haas, said.

Haas, based at Nick Bollettieri's tennis academy in Florida, played a remarkably mature game to overcome both his nerves and a fast-moving baseline opponent with a great deal of experience on clay.

'I was very, very nervous, as this was a new experience and I had no chance in the first set," Haas said. "But it was great to have such support and when I felt more confident I just tried to give it all I had." Haas' reward is a semi-final against another Spaniard, Felix Mantilla, who beat Becker in the third round. Great Britain's women were promoted to the Europe-Africa Group One of the Fed Cup in Antalya, Turkey, yesterday. The British, who had won their first four matches this week, beat Denmark 2-1 in their final pool

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

it's a bit like going to heaven without having to die first. Tony Banks on his appointment as Minister of Sport.

We stand on our own. We have won this without the help of the miership. It is not a chip on my shoulder, just a recognition that we have done it on our own. There is a terrible amount of jealousy towards Manchester United, 100 not know why. Alex Ferguson, United manager, on his side s fourth Premiership title in five seasons. The first thing is to congratulate them even though it sticks in your throat. Roy Evans, Liverpool manager, on United.

I think it was all over a while ago, actually. Alan Shearer, Newcastle striker, on the title No one gave us a chance except for some paper in Bulgana-

going to write to him and say thanks, Martin O'Neill, Leicester mariager, after his side had secured their Premiership status. 1 will be staying as chairman. prodigy, on present prodigies.

No other idiot wents to come forward. Peter Hill, chairman of Hereford United, relegated from the Nationwide League.

He has has so many X-rays the only thing he's suffering from now is radiation poisoning Alan Sugar, Tottenham chalrman, on Damen Anderton. ...

The kids we had on the line against Middlesbrough last week were so young they were giving jelly babies out between them. Gerry Francis, Spurs manager. My Mum set five or six chapeis ablaze because she fit so

many candles for me. Maybe now she'll shut up about me getting a proper job. Ken Doherty after beating Stephen Hendry to become world snooker champion. l'm still world No 1 by a country mile. I'm only 28. I'm not gone yet. Hendry.

who said we would stay up. I am 📕 I've learned not to expect much from kids. Sixteen year-old kids just want to have full and I think that's what they should do. Monica Seles, former tennis

### captain from Waikato said. "To holds up for the full 80 in the so up for this, including me," he Reading raring to go

BILL COLWILL

Reading, this season's National League winners, defend their HA Cup title tomorrow against Teddington, who finished second to them in the League. A victory for Reading would place them alongside Hounslow as the only team to achieve the League and Cup double in the same season.

With both clubs already assured of European competition next season, the final at the National Stadium could be a classic high scoring occasion and go some way towards answering the question hockey is always asking: can the game become more marketable? Tomorrow's contest will put

in opposition two of the prin-

cipal contenders for the posi-

tion as chief coach to the

English team, which has been

vacant since David Whitaker

resigned a year ago and at last is expected to be advertised shortly.

One is Reading's Jon Copp, who was the late Great Britain replacement for Whitaker in last summer's Olympics, and the other is Teddington's Jon Rovce, who took the recent England squad to Karachi for the Five Nations Golden Jubilee tournament and is the current under-21 coach. Their involvement in the final will be watched with interest.

On the playing front, Ted-dington will be at full strength and on a four-figure bonus from their sponsor, the Acer Computer Co. with the Welsh international Tyron Moore playing his last game for the club after 10 years. Reading will be without the British Olympic goalkeeper Simon Mason, who is recovering from a back operation, and also the England Under-21 centre-half Manpreet

TODAY Football 3.0 unless stated

Major football flatures: Page 28 BELL'S SCOTTISH LEASUE

SCOTTISH FIRST DRVISION

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION Forfar v Queen's Park Ross County v Montross

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH; Highland League XI v Football Association XI (at Cove Rangers NSTONILEAD KENT LEAGUE: Chathan

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-vision: Exercico Harriey v Kospove; Glos-sop North End v Penntir; Holler Old Boys v Mossley; Matne Road v Nantsuch.

Rugby Union 3.0 unless stated PILKINGTON CUP FINAL Leicester v Sa (at Twickenham

(at Mickenham)
COURAGE CLIES' CHAMPIONSHIP National Lougue Three: Exercy Oties; Havent v Harragate, Liverpool St Heters v Leeds; Morley v Lydrey; Wassel v Rossyln Paris; Marfadele v Rasking, National Leegue Four North: Hereford v Lichtied; Steffeed v Kender; Sourhridge v Sandel. Notional Leegue Four South: Ashears v High Wycombe; Berry Hijl v Camberley; Charton Paix v Westen-super Mare; North Waisham v Metropolitan Police: Tabard v Barling.

Barring, WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Caerphily v Noath (2.30); Lanelli v Ebbe Vale (2.30); Newbort v Candil (2.30); Porthyridd v Newbridge (2.30); Svisses v Bridgend (2.30); Treothyr v Durvert (2.30).
Treothyr v Durvert (2.30).
TENNERIS 1556 CBP Finat: Boroughmur v Melrose (of Munayfield). Tensents 1556 Stelett finat: Clasgiov High-Vebruside v Hawden (2.30) (2.40); Finates 1556 Bowl finat: Biggar v Selidir, (11.0) (or Munayfield). Tensents 1556

Speedway 7.30 unless state

ELITE LEAGUE: Bradford v Poole: Coventry v Kine's Lvnn: Eastbourne v Swindon.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE WOMEN'S UNDER 19 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Fluide Braciford, Harleston Magazes, Oxon, Portishead Frebends, East Greated 49-30 to 6.0) (at Million Hennes No.)

Other sports

TOMORROW Football PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leads v State (11.0).

Rugby League The Bayes of the State of the S aver, Keighley v Featherstone; Swinson v Wake-eld; Widnes v Huddensseld; Worlangton v Hust

Rugby Union 

Speedway

PREMIER LEAGUE NIVOCK-OUT CUP: Glasgow v Edeburgh (6.30); Newcastle v Beneda, (6.30); Slasgness v Oxford (6.30); Slasgness v Reading (8.0). ER LEAGUE CHALLENGE: Newport v Promer League All Stars (2.30). AMATEUR LEAGUE: Busion v Lethalian (3.0).

Hickney

MA CUP Finals Reading v Textdington (3.30), FIA
Trophy Read: De Mornfort University v West Herts
(1.0). Veterant' Trophy finals Execute v Eastngschie (11.0). Veterant' Cap finals Maksa v
Bertop's Stortoni (5.30) (all at Mikra Hennes NSC).

Other sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League: London
Moneysts v Scottish Caymores (3.0) (et Start.

TODAY'S number

430

The number of teams that entered the Carlsberg Pub Cup, which reaches its final stage at Wembley this afternoon. A crowd of 10,000 is expected to see Corby Caledonian take on the Cheshire side, Poulton Victoria.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Middlesex held up by the weather as Northamptonshire run into stiff resistance

### Hail prolongs Sussex farewell

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Lord's Middlesex 490-9 dec Sussex 187 and 6-0

Only the weather can surely deny Middlesex now, after Suscapitulation at Lord's. Bowled out for 187, they are 297 runs behind on a pitch still offering help to pace and seam.

storm, that turned the outfield white, prevented them sustaining further losses in their second nings and they face a testing time if they are to prevent recent

evidence of this match, it will Indeed only a spectacular hail-take more good fortune than

### Rose and Burns revive Somerset

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Northampton

Northamptonshire v

Somerset

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Never was the fascination of cricket better illustrated. After the first 16 overs of the day Som-erset were 73 for 7 and Northamptonshire seemed certain to take a more than useful first-innings lead. At this point, Graham Rose joined Michael Burns, the luck that was going suddenly de-

serted Northamptonshire, the eighth-wicket pair put on 170 with increasing certainty and it was Somerset who finished with a lead of 105. There was still life in the pitch and, after building up an im-

portant psychological advantage with his three wickets late on Thursday, Mohammad Akram was a nasty proposition at the start. It was he who removed Peter Bowler with the help of a good catch at third slip, and Paul Taylor, who was brisk and probing, took the next three wickets.

For some time after that, it seemed the eighth wicket would fall at any time. Rob Bailey, Northamptonshire's captain, obviously thought so too, for he made no attempt to vary his seam attack and the offspinner was not introduced until the middle of the afternoon. There was a certain amount of playing and missing which will have kept everyone interested, the ball found the edge criticism turning to ridicule.

It is never wise to draw sweeping conclusions this early in the season. For one thing limbs are stiff and pitches in-variably green and tricky to bat upon. Nevertheless, on the

of the bat and catches went

down, but a wicket would not fall.

in the slips when 13 and 27 and

Rose was also put down in the slips when 21 and, later, on 100.

David Capel, three times, and

Richard Montgomerie were the

culprits and as the stand pro-

gressed the ground fielding lost

His hundred came with a love-

top-edged hook to fine leg off

career, leaving Somerset with

Burns also played some good looking off drives, including the

best stroke of the day when late

in the afternoon he on-drove

Capel to the old pavilion for four.

The stand ended two runs short

of the Somerset eighth-wicket

record when Burns swept at Je-

remy Snape and was caught at

short fine leg, having passed his previous highest score, of 81, by

hopes of victory.

just a single.

some of its earlier sharpness.

Burns might have been caught

man, Jacques Kallis. According to a directive from Ali Bacher, South Africa's cricket supremo, Kallis is not meant to be bowling at all. However, with more wickets under his belt (two) than Allan Donald (one), the directive will surely be returned to sender. Starting the day on 44 for 3

and in drastic need of showing some fight, Sussex did not inconvenience the Middlesex bowlers for long. Indeed, only Bill Athey showed the necessary application and technique needed to cope on this mildly waspish surface. Athey, 40 later this year, finished unbeaten on 60.

pression this summer.

The procession at the other end however, was not a pleasing sight. Rajesh Rao, a fearsome looking fellow with goatee and shaven head, pussylooted his way around a full toss from Richard Johnson and was bowled. A few balls later, Vasbert Drakes, largely an absen-tee with the ball, edged James Hewitt to Gatting at second slip.

The pitch appeared to ease, as will happen when batsmen Hewitt, a tall, fair 21-year-old, take control. Burns and Rose has a pleasing - if stiff-looking are capable batsmen and only - upright action. He is no Richard Hadlee, at least not yet, came together so late in the innings because two nightwatchand his 4 for 60 here repremen were used on Thursday. sented a career best. Rose, who soon overtook

One who had to work hard-Burns, played some glorious er for his success was Angus thumping off-drives; he pulled Fraser who is currently enjoying handsomely, he square cut with excellent timing and was never a benefit year. Fraser wears his heart on his sleeve and his frusafraid to hit the ball in the air. tration, particularly when Hewitt dropped Paul Jarvis off him at ly force past cover. That was his long leg, was audible as far 12th four to add to one six: a away as St John's Wood station.

In the end he had to be con-Mohammad. It took him 136 tent to start his season's tally rolling with the scalp of a tailballs and was the seventh of his ender, Amer Khan, whose parabolic hook shot brought an end to a frenetic innings, when it plopped securely into John-

son's hands at fine leg.
Johnson, scheduled to tour South Africa with England two winters ago before a stress fracture ruled him out, was easily the quickest seamer on display. With three wickets, including one of last week's centurions Keith Newell, he ought to be set-ting his season's sights high.



#### Leicestershire are rescued by Johnson

Round-up

Neil Johnson, Leicestershire's South African recruit, staved off a three-day defeat for the champions by Worcestershire at New Road yesterday, writes Adam Szreter.

Leicestershire were dismissed for 69 in their first innings (Phil Newport 7 for 37) and lost three wickets for 14 after following on 188 behind. Left-hander Johnson then bit an unheaten 87 off 108 balls and put on 118 with Darren Maddy (36) as Leicestershire made 141 for 4 to reduce their deficit to 47. No play was possible after tea because of rain.

Stephen Peters scored his second successive century against Cambridge University as Essex drew at Fenner's, while Oxford University crashed to an innings defeat by Warwickshire.

### **Bicknell in fluent flow**

reports from Derby Surrey 267; Derbyshire 113-2

Under the scrutiny of the England coach, David Lloyd, Surrey's batsmen showed a lot of qualities here yesterday but, until late in the day, consistent footwork and sensible shot selection

were not always among them. In the end, though, a gritty in-nings which brought Graham Thorpe a little closer to something like form and an impressively fluent one from Martin Bicknell held them together. There is now scope for some manoeuvring on the last day, which did not always seem likely.

Surrey had apparently decided that they wanted to bat when they first saw the dry, albeit unevenly grassed, pitch on the first morning; by yesterday, however. after two days under the covers, it had obviously sweated enough

Moreover, when Adam Hollicake won the toss the skies were clear. By the time Surrey went in, the clouds had rolled in and inside five overs Darren Bicknell, Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart were rolled over, the last two contributing to their downfall with

errors of judgement.

Devon Malcolm's contribution straight and, Lloyd would have

It was a different game later when the sun shone and the ball had lost its hardness. Even so. Surrey had to drag themselves back from 134 for 7 and Derbyshire will think that would have been that if Bicknell had edged his first ball from Malcolm to slip

instead of a few inches wide. After that Bicknell got as

all but doubled the total.

to all this was to bowl fast and noted, more often than not at the same time. Nobody played him with comfort, at least while the ball was new and he was fresh.

firmly on the front foot as any-

plored both edges for quite some time, like most left handers attracted a lot of bowling which he nudged, deflected or drove off his legs. Thus the last three wickets

The importance of that was underlined when Chris Lewis ran in convincingly, while Bicknell, even off a reduced run-up, obtained enough bounce and movement to give everyone a bumpy ride. This was too much for Derbyshire's Adrian Rollins and Chris Adams, and by the close both Surrey and Lloyd must have felt they had had a rewarding day.

Graeme Hick has turned the down the chance to make an early impression against the Auslians for the Duke of Norfolk's XI in the traditional tour opener at Arundel on 15 May. He has decided two innings for Worcestershire against Oxford University are more likely to influence

### **Stanwick Ghost** comes to life

Equestrianism GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Badminton

After a day of dressage that was mostly uninspiring or spoilt by over-exuberance, Ian Stark and Stanwick Ghost finally produced the long-awaited show of excellence in the final dressage test of this year's Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials.

As they go into today's crosscountry, the Scot holds a 1.4 point lead over Robert Lemieux, riding for Canada on Just an Ace, with the joint overnight leaders, David O'Connor (United States) on Custom Made and Linda Algotsson (Sweden) on Lafayett, in equal third.

Stanwick Ghost, the attractive grey who was Stark's mount in last year's Olympics, produced a lovely soft, active and obedient test, with a nice rounded outline and flowing rhythm.

Though on exemplary behaviour in the arena, Stanwick Ghost had been bursting with excitement on Thursday. "He was still very wild this morning, so I rode him for an hour and a half and then gave him another 20 minutes before his test," Stark said.

Until the Scot went ahead, Lemieux had held the lead from early afternoon on 15-year-old Just an Ace, who has competed here on three occasions with New Zealand's Mark Todd, who collected one fourth and two fifth prizes with him. Todd's first ride on Just an Ace was in 1991, shortly after Lemieux had broken his collar-bone.

The first cross-country fence that the New Zealander took on the horse was the first obstacle on the Badminton course, which they jumped clear to finish fifth. Just an Ace has swapped stables several times since but returned to Lemieux last autumn.

Mary King was seventh on Star Appeal, with whom she won at Burghley last year.
"He's a great big solid Irish
horse and it's difficult to turn him into a ballerina," King said. "I was hoping to be in the top 10 after the dressage, so we've exceeded expectations."

WE VE EXCECTED EXPORTATIONS.

MITSUBSHI MOTORS BADMINTON

HORSE TRIALS IStandings after dressage phase): 1. Stanwick Ghost (Stark, GG) 46.2 penetises; 2. Just an Ace (R. Lemeux, Can) 47.6; 3= Lafayert. (I. Algotsson, Swe) and Custom Made (D O'Connor, US) 48.6; 5 Archie Brown (P Mur., GB) 49.4; 6 Headley Brevo (D Dick, GB) 49.6.

#### Britannic Assurance **County Championship** Third day of four

#### Gloucs v Hamnshire 1870L: Hampshire (Spts), with seven sac-d-Innings wickets standing are 41, rms and of Gloucesteratire (S). Today: 11.0. Hampshire won toss HAMPSHIRE – First Innings 316 (S D Lidal 58, R A Smith 52. A M Smith 4-61) RE - First Ionines

R J Cuntifie & Renshaw
M A Lynch c Reech b Connor
S Young low b Stephenson
M W Alleyne low b Connor
tR C Russell b Stephenson
TH C Hancock c Sub b Cornor
M C J Ball low b Stephenson
A M Smith not out
D V Lawrence b Stephenson
Extras (b2, b2, w6, nb2)
EXTRE 102, 102, WO, 1812)
Total (123.1 overs) Falt, 1-28, 2-72, 3-151, 4-175, 5-273, 6-3
Fat, 1-28, 2-72, 3-151, 4-175, 5-275, 6-4
7-341, 8-386, 9-401
Score at 120 overs: 8-394
Bowling: Connor 28-4-93-3; Renshaw 25-2
2; Mascarenhas 20-2-65-1; Udal 19-2-5

Unnolmus: G I Burgess and R A White

Middlesex v Sussex issez (2pts), with an their second-tests standing, are 267 runs be-sex (5). Today: 11.0. MIDDLESEX - First Innings 490 for 9 dec (M Rengrakash 145, KR Boom 144 no, AA Khen. 5-137).

SUSSEX - First Londings 

Inhreon 14-1-56-3; Kalls 1D.3-5-16-2 SUSSEX - Second limings M T E Peirce not out K Greenfield not out Extrae (b2, w2) - Overs Total (for 0, 2.2 overs) To bat' N R Taylor, C W J Athey, K Newell, R Ran, P Moores, V C Drakes, P W Javes, M A Rub son, A A Khao.

son, A A Khan. Bourling: Kalis 1-0-3-0; Hewat 0.2-0-1-0. Umpires: V A Holder and J H Hampshire. Northants v Samerset

MORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First Innings 185 (k M Curren 73, A R Caddick 6-65).

73, 8-243, 9-253. Bowling: Mohammad Alvam 20.4-3-72-5; Taylor 22-3-71-3; Boswell 14-1-83-1; Pan-berthy 4-1-13-0; Capel 7-2-23-0; Snape 9-

ISPAN
Derithy 4-1-13-0; Capen
1-21-1
NORTHAMPTORISHERE - Second Innings
R R Montgomens not out
M B Loye c Kerr b Shine
R J Balley law b Ross
K M Curran b Caddick
- Casheriny not out

res: T E Jessy and B J Mayer. Yorcester v Leicestersbire

ORCESTER: Leleastershire (4/th), with six scond-innings wickels standing, need 50 ore runs to avoid an innings defeat by lorestershire (6). Today: 11.0. hopsiershire won the murcusuminate (b). Today: 11.0.
Worsestershire wor toes
Worsestershire wor toes
Worsestershire = First lankage 257 K R
Spirny 55; A D Mullady 4-86).
LEICESTERSHIRE = First lankage
(bernight 42 107 5)

### A BRAND NEW CRICKET GUIDE



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y, M.T. Brimson. ug: Newport 11-6-20-1; Shenyar 9-1-30-pman 9.4-2-42-1; Haynes 11-1-43-2 bas: J.W. Holder and K.E. Palmer.

Derbyshire v Surrey DERSY: Derbyshire (4pts), with eight first-landings wickets standing, are 154 nms he-blad Surrey (2). Today: 11.0

Lewis e Harris b Mascolin . K Satisbury Ibw b Malcolin . P Bicknell c Adams b Dean Tudor e Adams b Dean ...... Benjamin not out ......

Comm. M P Bickmell 8-1-38-2; Lewis 6-0-25-C: Tudor 2-0-20; Hotionie 3-0-12-0; Benjamin 5-3-6-0; Salistury 2-1-2-0 Umpirea: A A Jones and B Dudleston. **Notts v Durham** 

HARTLEPOOL: Nottinghamatire (4pts) with night second-innings wickets standing are 93 rans behind Durham (7). Today: 11.0. MOTTONOGRAMSHITE - Frost Inni M Tolby 54; A Walter 7-569, DURHAM - First Insings (Overlight 115 for 3. N J Small stop on 

Potent (nl. 1912, w12, nb10) 35 Total (120.2 overs) 331. Twit 1.12, 2-66, 3-70, 4-205, 5-265, 6-261. 7-281, 8-314, 9-330.

R T Robinson not out

G F Archer low b Boiling ....

M R Bowen not out

Edrae (lbz, rbz)

Total (for 2, 26 overs)

Fall: 1-11, 2-60. To Batt M P Dowmen, "P Johnson, C M Tolley, TW M Noon, K P Barrs, R T Betes, P J Frants. Bouling Brown 8-7-27 C; Kleen 7-0-15-1; Wall-or 5-2-22. Boling 5-3-2-1; Boon 1-1-0-0. Umplruss: R Julian and J F Steele.

Glamorgan v Yorkshire HEJONGLEY: Glamorgan (7pts), with all or ood first-inducts wickets standing, are 11 runs aband of Yorkshire (7). Today: 11.0

russ, ahand of Yarlebire (7). To (Stanonjan won mas) SEAMOREAN - First knings (Wednesday: 213 for 1) SP James on out A Dale o Bistey b Gough "M P Mignard o Byes b Shemoor P A Cottey o Bistey b Sourap — G P Buster Rw o Gough 1A D Staw Dw b Gough 1A D Staw Dw b Gough S D Thomas c Labrasin b Gough Wager Youris Iw b Shemood — S L Waden not out — Betrae (14), bit2, w/, shi19 Total (102.4 evers) 

### YORKSHERE- First lendings A McGreat in Shew b Wagger M P Vaughen c Shew b Croft D Byes faw o Watten D S Celmann b Butcher B Parker c Jemes b Suscher White bub b Thomas R J Blakey c Megnard b Croft M Hamilton at Shew b Croft E W Shewnood not out D Stemo not out D Stemo not out

2, 8-184, 9-192, wing: Wager 12-1-42-1; Warten 12-4-34-1; pmas 5-0-32-1; Daie 4-0-21-0; Croft 18-2-3-44; Burcher 5-1-11-2 AROMRAN - Second Lenings Jernes not out \_\_\_\_\_

S D Thomas.
Bowling Gough 2-0-9-0; Stemp 4-1-7-0; Vaugh-an 2-0-11-0
Usupires: B Leadbeater and D Shepherd.
Other first-class matches

Final day of three
Cambridge Unity v Essex
FENNETS: Match drawn.
Cambridge University won toss
CAMBRIDGE University won toss
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - First includes 285
for a dea in Singh 134, ET Smith 72, D R Low 

B J Hydra not out 19
Extrass (33, b4, e4, et4) 151
Potal five 5 dec, 105.2 overal 403
Fall: 1.136, 2.145, 3.185, 4.253, 5.322
Did not bot D G Wisson, G R Napier, S J W Andrew, P M Such, Sowing P S Jones 16-3-49-1; How 13-5-25-0; Davison 11-2-56-0; House 4-0-21-0; R O Jones 17-1-66-0; Freeth 27-3-101-2; Hughes 16-2-3-73-2; Singh 1-0-5-0.
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY — Second Innings O Hughes not out 4-3

FORD UNIVERSITY — Second Inches J M M Avents not out 11
C M Batterbee c Prost b Brown 12
Extres (h2, b10, w2, nb10) 24
Total (for , 66.3 ovens) 110
Fatt 1-1, 2-1, 3-8, 4-26, 5-33, 6-39, 7-86, 8-

91, 9-104, Bording Weich 14-7-15-3; Brown 14-3-4-24-4; Giles 21-11-27-3; Smeth 11-3-23-0; Edmond 6-3-14-0 Second XI Championship Final day of three; 13.0 to ney to drees, 1110 and 201 (M Sanger ), Durham 385-3 dec (S Hagon 159, J Da-(4), Durham wea by lonlogs and 73 runs. THE GWAL: Surrey 406 for 8 dec and 205 for 8 (Ransidle 116no); Dethyshire 349 (i D Blockwell 99, M R May 54; I G Ward 5-87). Match about doned as a draw.

Tomorrow's fixtures ACA LIFE LEAGUE (one day, 2.0) Derby: Der-byshre v Surrey, Martiepool: Durbam v Mot-tinghamshire. Bristol: Gloucestershire v Hampshire. Lord's: Middlesex v Sussex Australian rules AFI. Seventh round: Collingwood 17.9 (111) bt North Melbourne 9.14 (68).

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Kensas City 4 Detroit 0; New York Yankees 5 Tesas 4; Mirvesota 10 Boston 7; Toronto 4 Cleveland 3; Baltmore 13 Sestile 3; Chicago White Sox 10 Oakland 6. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 4 New York Mets 2; St Louis 6 Philadelphia 2; Philaburgh 1.0 Col-orado 8; Chicago Cubs 6 San Diego 2; Flonda

**Baskethall** NBA PLAY-OFPS Second round: Eastern Conference semi-finals: Atlents 103 Chica-go 95 (Best-of-assen series (led 1-1), Western Conference semi-fisals: Los Angeles Lakes 104 Utah 84 (Itah lead best-of-assen series

WHOC FLYWEIGHT TITLE (Bangkold; C Sessiul (That) bt I Zamudio (US) pts.
THURSDAY'S LUTE RESULTS: Professional protection (Mansfeld): WRO Inter-Continental featherweight championathy: S Robracon (Cardiff bt I/C Sanchez-Leon (Mee) to 7th.
10-rd flyweight: M Reynolds (London) bt S Williams (Mansfeld) ref Sth. 6-rd super-bantaneweight: B Jones (Bannington) bt C Graves
Research and fath. Send Bethandrich (D Bannington)

DUMGRK FOUR DAYS RACE Fifth stage (Grav-alines, Fr): 1 J Biglevers (Verherlands, TVM) 4r 15min 10sec; 2 D Abbusperov (Libbis, Lot-lo); 3 F Monceson (Fr, Gean; 4 J Krispuz (Ex, Casino); 5 M Pocoli (ft, Casino) all seme time-Overalls 1 J Museeuw (Bel, Mape) 3 Oth 43min 35ac; 2 F Vandenbroucke (Bel, Mape) + 18ac; 3 N Mercan (Bel, Mape) + 27ac; 4 A Tchmi (Mr, (pitc) + 33; 5 L Van Bon (Neth, Rebobank) +35. Football

The Sunderland striker Niell Quinn has been recalled to the Republic of Ireland sound for the World Cup qualifier against Liechtenstein at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 21 May. He had missed the last fine interesticals has the last

Ind), Given (Blackburn); hven µvennesser чем, сывыварыем (Minchedon), Brees (Coverny), Harths (Leeds), Fleming (Middlesbough), Ken-nes (Blackburn), Phaliss (Evenny), Stauston (Mi-ton Villa), Houghton (Crystal Palaca), Kenne (Machester Utd), Towassend (Aston Villa), Mid-Leeghin (Portamouth), Pervelly (Aston Villa), Mid-Leeghin (Portamouth), Pervelly (Aston Villa), G. Kelly (Leeds), Nesnedy (Juspool), Goodense (Minsiedon), Cascarino (Mancy), Quinn (Sun-leatant)

nii, stowyer (Leischi, James (Vorwech), rese Laicester), Hell (Coventy), Moese (Barne Sooweroft (Ipsaich), Marrity (Queen's Ranges), Heighes (Assent), Carragier (Loco), Huckesthy (Coventry), Quasthe (Que Perk Ranges), Onsidey (Southampton) and (Backburn), Ferralmand (West Harr), Gree

WORLD CUP Asian Group One (Sen's): Ye men () Uziekistan 1 (Hassanov 22).

GEOST
BELLSOUTH ATLANDA CLASSIC (Dubsth, Georgia) Landing first-round scores (US unless stated): 64 D Pooley, 66 N Prez (Zin), S Simpson, D Hartmond, B Weedtra, D Dusst, 67 S Durisp, 68 B Estes, J Heas, D Forstran, C Kradda, S Kentall, 69 S Georg, M Braisy, C Kradda, S Kentall, 69 S Georg, M Braisy, D Hart, L Jarusen, D Torrs, C Rymér, C Bowden, C Sull-van, M Desson, 6 Day, H Sution, B Glasson, J Gallagher, 68: 84 S Keppler.

ENGLAND WOMEN'S STRUAD (Champooles) Tropby, Berlin, starting J. Juniej: H. Dowles, Stessith, H. Rose (Sutton Cotdied), D. Mass Chon-Smith, (Chiton), P. Miller, J. Moutel, Blanks, K. Rowden (Baleam Leosser), K. Brows J. Copeland, J. Swith (Sugil), I. Weight (Oltro T. Craften, C. Reid, I. Newcombe (Hightown), Energy N. Verderby and ice bockey NHL STARLEY CUP PLAY-OFFS Second round Eastern Conference semi-fastic New York

### England's selectors.

of-seren series 3-1). Western Conference semi-fluxis: Debot 3 Anaheum 2 (ot2) (Detroit win best-of-seven series 4-0). WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Medel round (Heisk ldjr Canada 2 Russa 1 (Canada play Sweden I the best-of-three final, starting tomorrow). Play off round (Heislaid): Czech Republic O Swede

JULIO ELIROPEAN CHAMPHONSHEPS (Ostend, se-lected resolut) NERI: Under-GSig: First round: J Davis (GS) bt J Kracs (Slovesi), Second round: Davis lost to H Orian (Gurd. Replachage: Davis to I. Otser (Sp) (Davis qualifies for somerow's replachage semi-draiss). Under-Tillage First round: D kingston (GS) bt I. Prede (Rorn). Second round: Krigston is Constraint on (Origi, Quester-finale: Krigston bis to G Vazagachwii (Geor). Replachagie: Krigston bis to Grand (Gard. Allegiston qualifies for somerow's repectage semi-final), Usader-Tälig: Fiest round: G Randal (GS) bt M Novala Swel. Second round: Fancial lost to J Lasts (Bela). Seed. Second round: Rental lost to J. Lasts (Batu. Replichagie: Roundal lost to M. Azzov (Azart. Withliele Undar-52/ge First round: S. Rendo (Sab. tt. S. Dermal (Int.). Second round: S. Rendo (Sab. tt. S. Dermal (Int.). Second round: Rendo lost to T. Mayer (Nesh). Undar-56/ge First round: N. Fabrother (Sab.). Replichagie: Rendo lost to F. Rengolami (ID. Quarter-Smale: Patrocher lost to I. Fernander (Sab.). Replichagie: Fabrother bt. T. Muntringle: (Dat.). Replichagie: Fabrother bt. V. Jaho (Bost). Quarter-Smale: Peel lot tt. Janother (Sol.). Replichagie: Peel bt M. Janother (Sol.). Replichagie: Peel bt M. Janother (Sol.). Replichagie: For tornorow's resolutions oversidents.

Rugby League TRANSFERS: Bram Butt (winger) London Bruncos to Huddersfield; Paul Dison (forward) Sheffield Engles to Huddersfield.

**Rugby Union** Mark Ring, the former Wales centre and West Hartlepool coach, will be the new player-coach of the Comish club. Pen-

The Bristol centre Kevin Maggs will join this month's Ireland's tour to New Zealand and Western Samoa as a re-SUPER-12: Otago 16 New South Wales 27; Australian Capital Territory 48 Walkato 34. Australian Capina Tentroy 48 Wallato 34, WALES A (v Romania, Bucharest, 24 May): M Back (Swansea); 6 Thomas (Brdgend), M Boobyer (Llanelli), N Davies (Llanelli), 6 Wy-att (Portyprodd); A Thomas (Swansea), P John (Portyprodd); C Loader (Swansea), G Jenkins (Swensea), M Woyle (Llanelli), H Jenkins (Lianelli), R Appleyand (Swansea), S Williams (Neath), Raplessaments: L Jarvis (Cardin), H Harries (Horieums), C Charvis (Swansea), M Weltions (Neath), J Davies (Neath), R McBryde (Llanelli)

**Şalilog** Bruce Owen, who has only partially re-covered from a car crash last year, has won the World Sb.-Metre Championship

in Cannes. Another Briton, Tony Can-ning, was eight, with Rupert Street 15th in the 24-boat fleet. Speedway THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT: Premier League Cup: Sheffield 53 Newcessie 37.

HAMBURG OPEN O (Sp) bt H Arazi (Mor) 4-5 7-5 6-4; T Haas (Ger) bt A Bernsstegul (Sp) 2-5 6-3 6-3; Y Keteinkov (Rus) tr A Costa (Sp) 6-3 6-0; A Mediceder (Uir) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4 7-6. AMERICA'S RED CLAY CHAMPHONSKIP (Casel Springs, Florida) Third round: M Wood-forde (Aus) bt P Kords (C. Rep) 1-6 6-4 ret J Stotlenberg (Aus) bt M Norman (Swe) 8-0 3-6 6-4; J Van Herck (Bel) bt S Soble (Aus) 6-3 4-6 6-3; D Witz (US) best F Forming (Fr) 4-6

ITALIAN OPEN WOMEN'S TOURNAM ITALIAN OPEN WOMEN'S TOURRIAMENT (Rosse) Third resust: P Schryder (Swit) it A Coetzer (Swit) it A Specimen's (Boet Swit) it I Migoli (Pros) 4-6-4-6-3; M Pierce (Fr) it M Seles (US) 7-6-7-6; B Paulus (Aut) it I Fubern (16-2-6-1. Querter-finales: C Martnez (Sp) it I hruger (SA) 6-0-6-4; B Paulus (Aut) it I Spritea (Rom) 6-4-6-2; M Pierce (Fr) it R Dragorum (Rom) 6-3-6-4.

FED CLIP Europe-Africa Group Two (Antalys, Turk) Pool A: Great Brister 2 Demmark 1 (SB names first): C Wood lost to E Dyreburg 3-6-6-4-3-C; S Smith it S Alburus 4-6-8-4-2; J Pulin and L Woodcroft is Dyreburg and Albi-Pulin and Coetzer (Swit) in Coetzer (Swi he

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LTA SPRING SATELLITE (Lee-on-Solent)
Ment's singles querter-finale: R Gibert (Fr) bit
1. Million 162: 6-2-6-3; J. Chezent (Fr) bit 1 Sprind
(GE) 5-2-6-2; J. Weitrzeef (Ger) br. D Sapsford
(GE) 7-6-2-6-3: A Belobragia (Aus) bit 1 Neumuller (Aut) 7-6-6-1. Women's singles quer-

muser (Aut) 7-8 6-1, woman is suggest quanter-fixeler. Ward (69) bit C Taylor (68) 6-4.3-1 erc, M Lamarre (Fr) bit B Auer (Aut) 6-2.4-6 7.5 L Ain (68) bit N Warm-Holland (193) 4-6 6.1 6-1; J Stack (6A) bit J Choudhury (68) 6-1.6-2, Sami-Hisales M Lamarre (Fr) bit J Ward (68) 6-1.6-2, J Stack (SA) bit L Ain (68) 6-2 6-3.



. . .

FOOTBALL: Coventry are in danger of slipping out of the top flight for the first time in 30 years. Phil Shaw spoke to their captain

# McAllister focused on the job in hand

alk about tempting fate.
A month ago, after Gary
McAllister had coaxed Coventry City to successive wins over Liverpool and Cheisea, the club's vice-chairman remarked that they ought to change their name to Coventry Houdini.

As the Scotland captain pre-pares for the Sky Blues' final match of the season at Tottenham tomorrow, when anything less than victory will curtail their residency at Premiership level after 30 unbroken years, it may be pertinent to point out a little-known fact about the man whose name is synonymous with escapology.

Houdini, for all his incredible feats, met his end after inviting a spectator to test his muscle control by thumping him in the stomach.

The sucker-punch symbolism may seem painfully appropriate if Coventry relinquish a record of not having been relegated from any division since 1952. To McAllister's chagrin, their destiny is no longer in their own hands following a home defeat by Derby.

Coventry must now beat Spurs and pray, as their playmaker puts it, that Middlesbrough take no more than a point at Leeds and that Sunderland lose at Wimbledon. The scenario amounts to no more than "a glimmer of

One irony in a situation riddled with them is that McAllister is looking for a favour from Leeds, whom he left for £3m last summer after six seasons that included a championship medal. He is confident Boro will find them hard to beat, taking heart from the fact that he was the last visitor to score in a League game at El-land Road, way back on Box-

Although McAllister experienced the drop with Leicester 10 years ago this month when Coventry were gearing up for FA Cup glory against Spurs, of all teams - he acknowledges

is fiercer now. The Premiership and the old First Division are, he asserts, "different planets" in terms of competitiveness, coverage and financial rewards.

"I was just a young lad in '87," he says, now 32. "As your status in the game changes, so does your personal responsibility and I came as Coventry's record buy. Expectations here are also higher than they were

Almost for the first time since Jimmy Hill led them into the top flight, Coventry have shown genuine ambition by splashing out on players. Before Ron Atkinson became Hill's latest successor 27 months ago, Dion Dublin was their sole seven-figure signing. Atkinson invested in a further nine, while Gordon Strachan has recruit-

ed two more since stepping up

The presence of his prede-

cessor as Leeds and Scotland

captain played a major part in

convincing McAllister that

Coventry could banish the cul-

ture of monotonous mediocrity.

Perhaps he was unaware how

deeply rooted it was: this will

be their 14th bottom-five finish

in 30 seasons and the 23rd

time they have ended up below

a lot of money and backed this

management team as well as

any board in the country."

McAllister says. "I'm sure they

expected us to be nearer a

place in Europe than the bot-

started poorly by losing at

home to Forest - 3-0 going on

10 - and we've never been

able to pull away from trouble.

We had a good run around

So what's gone wrong? "We

"The directors have put up

last November.

half-way.

Christmas when we won four most recent nerve-shredding fi and drew one. But then we had Dion sent off twice and suspended for seven games. That took away our most likely scorer. Even when he plays at the back he's always dangerous at

"There still seemed to be enough home games for us to get clear. But we drew with Wimbledon when we played well and lost to West Ham after starting brightly and going ahead. Then after winning at Liverpool and beating Chelsea, we drew with Arsenal, which would have been a good result if some of the other struggling sides hadn't started hitting championship form."

Previous scrambles to safety were achieved with what Strachan calls "hungry players"

£30m outlay in three years

means Coventry have arguably

their most talented squad ever.

Critics allege it is also one of

McAllister, houest enough to admit that "scrapping doesn't come naturally" to him, has tak-

en more than his share of flak

from the fans. With hindsight,

he would probably have need-

ed to lead Coventry to the ti-

tle to persuade them he was

good value for such an un-

precedented sum. Yet he dis-

putes that there is any lack of

Last Saturday was a real slap in

the face. But while there's still

a chance, we'll be giving it

everything. I'm sure we'll know

on the pitch how the other

matches are going."

By another twist, he was in

the Leeds midfield 12 months

ago when Coventry staged their

"The players are hurting.

the least committed.

'The directors have put up a lot of

money... I'm sure they expected

us to be nearer a place in Europe

than the bottom three'

tension as the Southampton and Man City scores filtered through to Highfield Road. I also remember the joy and relief on people's faces after it ended 0-0." through it all again has mani-

nale. "You could really feel the

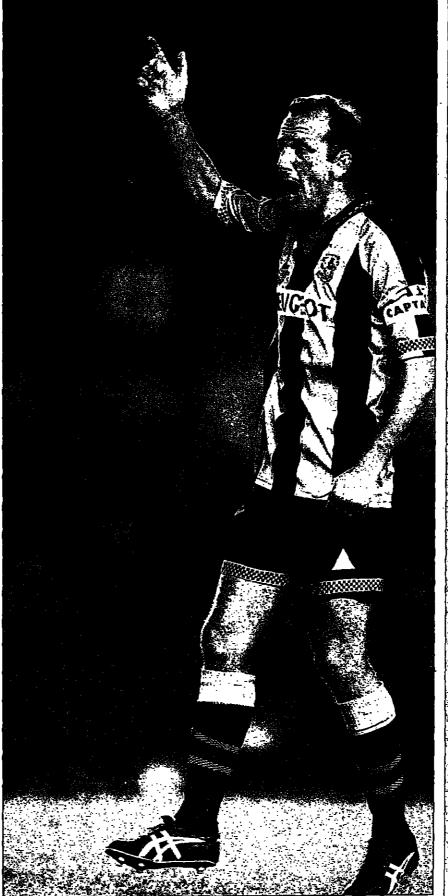
fested itself in some brutally frank remarks. I suggest that his words would have been better left to the dressing-room than the press conference; McAllister disagrees. "When he's criticised us, he's told the truth rather than just slagging us off. We feel we've let him down, and that could work for us on Sunday.

"I've worked with some top managers and I'm positive Gordon has what it takes. If the worst happens, it'll only be a blip in his career. The crucial thing in management is to have the players' respect. He's got it." With his country's World

Cup prospects delicately poised there has been specuation that McAllister will leave Coventry rather than risk his Scotland place by playing in the Nationwide League. Any decision will be made by others he is contracted until 2000 though it could well be that in the event of relegation the club would seek to cut the wage bill

by selling their highest earners. In the meantime he is "totally focused" on Coventry's struggle against the odds. Apart from the nine lives they have enjoyed on the season's final day, there is another promising portent. Two years ago, Strachan inspired a 3-1 success which ensured the luxury of survival in their penultimate fix-

On the last Sunday, also at White Hart Lane, McAllister led Leeds to the point they renuired for a place in Europe. This time a draw will definitely not do. However, if the Sky Blues slip their shackles once more, even those who aspire to Houdini's mantle will begin to talk about performing "a



1985-86: For the third year running, a last match win at borne - beautig QPR 2.1 kept Coventry, now managed by George Cur its, in the top fight. Bennett again got the

1991.92 Coverby needed a point from what a proved to be Don Howe's last match as many age; but tost 2.0 at Aston Villa after going behind in just 20 seconds. Tells rested on

behind in Just 20 seconds. Fate rested on Luton going down at Notts County: Luton sourced first, but Rob Matthews struck twice to save Coverny's skin.

1995-96: Coverny's Southampton and Manchester City went into their final games level on points. Each was at home and each drew, Coverny fighting out a nervous goalless draw with a Leeds side who included the Sky Blues present cappain, Garry McArlister. Manchester City went down because they had the worst goal difference, Alan Ball having erroneously told his players to play for time when they drew level at 2-2 with Liverpool.

### Souness, Reid, Robson, Strachan – two from four will go

ing else Blackburn Rovers' draw out results in your mind and if will be to the fore in the latter with Middlesbrough on Thursday clarified the Premiership's relegation issue. Now 42 points crazy with worry." is a haven and two from Southampton, Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Coventry City will be safe tomorrow. The other duo will be contemplating life without full BSkyB money and trips to Port Vale rather than Manchester United.

Brian Little, who sampled last-dayitis two seasons ago with Aston Villa, put the relegation threatened manager's plight into words this week. "I sympathise with anyone in that the first by points, the second by

terrible. You can drive yourself

At least Messrs Souness, Reid, Robson and Strachan will not have that problem much longer. It is just tonight that they will toss and turn working out the permutations. "If we win by two goals and they lose ... '

for the uncommitted. Southamplose they can be overhauled by Sunderland and Middlesbrough,

Then there were four. If noth-position," he said. "You work goal difference. Mathematicians they don't go as you expect it's case as Southampton's goal difference is minus five and Middlesbrough, who travel to Leeds, is minus nine.

There is also a scenario where all four teams might finish on 41 points which will mean the drop for Sunderland and, barring a miraculous scoring feat, Tottenham-bound Coventry, who, like Not that they are simple even Sunderland, have a goal differences of minus 17.

ton, on 41 points, will be safe if they get a point at Villa but if they can explain it fully to the man-Got that? Good. Perhaps you agers concerned so that last season's farce when Manchester City were playing for time against **Guy Hodgson** attempts to unravel the complexities surrounding the outcome of tomorrow's Premiership programme

Liverpool in the mistaken as-sumption they were safe will be avoided. At least Niall Quinn. Peter Reid's team have precisewho shot out of the dressingroom to tell Alan Ball of his mistake, will be on hand again if Sunderland make a similar error.

Which is unlikely as Sunder-land are going to have their hands full just dealing with their opponents, never mind monitoring the radio. As Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said on Thursday

session of others when they could manage only a win and two draws this congested week. "We always knew." Robson said,

ly that problem. Ferguson believes Middlesbrough will escape and was prepared to bet a reporter £20 to that end, although, in at least one respect. Boro are worse off than they have ever been. Week in week out their games in hand have allowed their manager, Bryan Robson, to say: "At least our future is in our own

"that even if we had beaten Blackburn we would still have to go to Leeds and get a win so the mental state is the same. The disappointing thing is that we have to rely on other people."

hands." Not any more though.

Their fate slipped into the pos-

Leeds in particular, who have perfected the art of the bore draw and who have not conceded a home goal in the League since Boxing Day. "George Graham has made them difficult to break down." Robson said, "but quoted Boro at 4-11 to go down

Principally, he means Fabrizio Ravanelli, who has been in Italy this week getting treatment on his back and thigh iniury. He will fly to Teesside today when he will have a fitness test. "I spoke to Fabrizio this morning, Robson said, "and I un-derstand he has been training for

we have some quality strikers."

the last two days." On the subject of morale Robson added: "We're not too down, because, with the week we've had, we're happy to still have a chance." If you want an objective view of that chance. however, William Hill have

with Coventry as favourites at 1-9, Sunderland at 4-5 and Southampton 10-1.

Things are also far from clearcut near the top. One out of Liverpool, Arsenal and Newcastle will join Manchester United in the Champions' League as runnersup, while the other two will have a Úefa Cup place. Which leaves only one more ticket to Europe which will be filled by Villa,

Chelsea or Sheffield Wednesday. In the end it might all come down to the simplest of differentials - luck, "If we just get the breaks," Robson said wistfully yesterday. It is a thought that will echo in a few minds tonight.

### The stabbing pain of relegation

derland graced the turf of Roker Park, it is typical that we go into the final game uncertain of our Premiership safety. In spite of the late flurry of transfers, Peter Reid's attempts to treat a broken leg with a Band-Aid might prove too little too late.

In the last season in which Sun-

One point at Wimbledon to-morrow might mean the difference between success and failure. Although we hold our fate in our own hands to a certain degree, our future hinges on a number of variables. One bad decision from a referee, one dodgy offside, a penalty not given, or a missed tackle could mean the difference between playing Manchester United or Bury at our new ground next season. Whatever the outcome, the

farewell to Roker against a Liverpool XI next Tuesday will be a heartfelt occasion.

I first visited Roker Park on 24 October, 1970, at the age of three. We played Oxford in front of 16,376 and lost 1-0. I stood in the Fulwell End with my mam and dad under the dium does today. A young floodlight, Main Stand side. It Reid played for Bolton that day was actually a clever move by my dad to take me there at such a young age, because by the time I went to school, in Newcastle, I knew Sunderland were my team. I remember him asking me before my first day at school: 'If anyone asks you which team you support, what do you say?" I knew the answer all right.

There was one other Sunderland fan at Archibald First School in Gosforth. We joined forces to battle the enemy. Gordon Armstrong became my best mate and would play for Sunderland 349 times.



season we moved from the Fulwell End to the back row of the Clock Stand. I remember thinking that the Clock Stand was posh because it had its own half-time scoreboard, oddly positioned into the side wall as you could not see the main scoreboard in the corner of the Roker End from those seats. During this period we were

one of the top teams in the then Second Division. We had, famously, won the FA Cup and our next aim was to gain promotion. We eventually achieved our goal on 24 April 1976. We were at home to Bolton Wanderers and 51,983 expectant Sunderland fans were packed inside Roker. In those days, the Roker End held more than the entire staand he made no difference whatsoever, Towers and Robson scored the goals. It was the happiest day of my life. I was

The 1976-77 season was my first watching Sunderland in the top flight, and my old man's insistence that we hadn't strengthened our squad sufficiently was not going to dampen my enthusiasm. However, it was soon obvious that we were going to struggle. Bob Stokoe resigned and Jimmy Adamson took over. He gave youth its chance by playing Rowell,

while it looked like that we might achieve the impossible and stay up. In an echo of tomorrow's match, it all hinged on our last game of the season. away to Everton. My dad picked me up from

school that day at lunchtime, told the teacher I had a dentist's appointment and we hit the road for Goodison. The game itself was a nightmare and we lost 2-0. Some Everton fan threw a dart at me and it landed in my knee. I

though I was going to die, but I pulled it out, and although it hurt, it was nothing compared with the pain I endured watching my first relegation. After you've tasted such failure, it is becomes a test of character, of your loyalty to the

Throughout my time watching Sunderland, history has repeated itself over and over again. We develop a team capable of getting into football's top tier, then fail to invest in strengthening it. This season has proved no different. Which brings us back to tomorrow's

fight for survival. We face Wimbledon not knowing which division we will be playing in next season, Our special game at Roker will be emotional enough, but the threat of relegation will make tomorrow's situation almost

# MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL

FIXTURES

TODAY 3.0 unless stated

tationwide Football Leasu First log Crystal Palace v Wolves heffield Littl v Ipswich.

TOMORROW 4.0 unless stated

FA Curling Promiership Manchester Und v West Harri 🚐

Verscastle v Nottingham Forest ... Stieffield Wednesday v Liverpool

oltenham v Coventry...

Nationwide Football League Prontotion play offs Second Division somi-finals First leg Bristol City v Brentford (1.0) Crewe y Liston (3.0) ....

Third Division semi-finals First leg Cardiff City v Northampton (12.0) 

### Three-way battle for Premier safety Scottish football

RUPERT METCALF

Thousands of Scottish spectators are in for a nervous hour and a half today as Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Hibernian all battle for their Bell's League Premier Division status. These three clubs are scrambling to avoid a two-legged play-off

month that will decide the re-

next season. Motherwell's manager, Alex

McLeish, whose side gave themselves the chance to save their Preinier place with Monday's unexpected 2-0 win at Rangers, says he feels for his fellow managers, Jim Duffy of Hibernian and Kilmarnock's Bobby Williamson. "I have sympathy for Jim and Bobby, but I can only woragainst the First Division run-ners-up, Airdrie, later this for himself." McLeish said.

maining top-flight place for afternoon of high anxieties at three grounds across the country and, while you don't wish it on anyone, you only think about vourself. If you are in the playoff you still have a chance of surviving, but we're not thinking

about that just yet."
The Scottish Cup finalists Kilmarnock, a point clear of the other two strugglers, entertain Aberdeen at Rugby Park. Motherwell are at home to Dunfermline, while Hibernian

Motherwell will survive. Hibernian have selection problems for the trip to managerless Raith, with Chic Charnley and Kevin Harper both suspended, Chris Jackson injured and Willie Miller and

Pat McGinlay both doubtful. The other promotion place to be decided is in the Third Division, where Ross County will try to overtake Forfar Athletic for the runners-up place behind Williamson said: "It will be an visit relegated Raith Rovers. If Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

### TEAM SHEET

Aston Villa v Southampton Last season: 3-0. Last five League matches: Aston
Ville Will give fitness tests to indifferent rand goalkeeper Bosnich as
they try to secure the point they need to qualify for the Uefa Cup.
Defender Dodd is set to return after suspension for the Saints, who may once again leave but Le Tissier and keep faith with Evans up from:

Last season: Did not play. Last five League match-Hendry will play for Rovers despite a groin injury, Sutton may return after missing two matches with a hamstring strain. Leicester call up the youngsters Campbell and Wilson while the Frenchman, Rolling, starts his first match of the season at the heart of their defence.

Derby v Arsenal
Lest sesson: Did not play. Last five League matches: Derby DWIDW, Arsenal WWDDL As Derby DALDW, Arsena. WWUUL

McGreth will play for the first had now in his farewell performance for the
Rams, while Sturndge is fulled out with cardiage trouble and will undergo
minor surgery next week. Arsenal have a full squad from which to choose,
with Adams expended to pass a fighess test.

Everton v Chelsea Last season: 1-1. Last five League matches: Everton DWDDL, Chelses LLWWD.

Everton's Phelan is ruled out against his old club because of a broken bone In his hand, Branch and Stuart face late fitness tests but Unsworth is serv-ing the second match of a three-match ban. Chelsee will not risk Zola be-

fore the FA Cup final, but Vialli is set to make a rare start up front. Leeds v Middlesbrough

Last seeson: 0-1. Last tive League matches: Leeds

DLDDD, Middlesbrough LLWDD.

For Leeds: Sharpe and the French Winger Laurent are both set to start.
Ravariell: sconfident he will be fit for Middlesbrough, who must win at Elend Road to have any chance of staying in the Premiership. He has been having treatment in Italy on a wrenched back. Leeds v Middlesbrough

Man Utd v West Ham Last season: 2-1. Last five League matches: Manchester Utal WWDDD, West Ham LDWWD.
For West Ham, Moncur is out with a knee injury. Keane is doubtful for the champions with an ankle problem, Giggs is already ruled out, but Scholes, Gary Neville and Butt should shake off injuries. Pallister and tiwin are also available after being left on the bench against Newcastle with slight knocks.

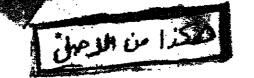
Last season: 3-1. Last fire Losgile mist be castle WWWDD. Nottingham Fornet Dit Dit Lee is the main doubt for Newcastle, after hissing the main actif injury, but Ferdinand has represent the main actif injury.

Sheff Wed v Liverpool Last season: 1-1. Last five League matches: Shelfield Wednesday DWIII, Liverpool WDIWL: Wednesday have no injury womes but manager Plear may drop Hirst and recall Donaldson. Owen - the substitute who scored in the 2-3, defeat at Wimbledon - may start for Liverpool but Barnes imped out of the Dave Higgins testimonal in midweek and is unlikely to win his place back.

Last season: 3-1 Last five League van Last season: 3-1 Last five League van Last terman LLDWL Covernby WMDDP.

The Norwegian goalkeeper Bardsen will date a season of the control of the liniured Walker. Spurs are also will be control of the contro

Wimbledon v Sunderland Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Wimbledon WLDW, Sunderland DLWLW. The Dons's midfielder Earle will have a late test on a recurring ankle injury, Fear will deputise if Earle is unable to play. The Sunderland full-back Hail (ankle) is doubtful so Kubicki stands by Bridges has recovered from an Achilles injury and is added to the squed.



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### Gascoigne offers England a blast from the past

GLENN MOORE

to their captain

ky Blues on the

de: a history of ist-day escapes

> ed, appropriately enough, for Manchester, and Glenn Hoddle yesterday offered the hope that their arrival could herald a fresh start for Paul Gascoigne.
> We have heard this before and the chance of Gascoigne

The rainbow nation are headmaturing from wastrel to sober aim is that the subsequent tourcitizen seems ever more unlikely but South Africa offers as good an example of positive change

as there is. The Republic's rel-

atively peaceful transition from

tural democracy may be lost on Gascoigne but it shows, in a far more weighty context, that most things are possible.

Hoddle's immediate hope is that against South Africa, at Old Trafford on 24 May, Gascoigne will prove himself fit enough in mind and body to show he can play a significant part in Eng-land's World Cup tie in Poland a week later. His long-term nament in France, whose 23-man squad will be chosen injury permitting - from yesterday's 27-man party, will give him the chance to revive Gas-

On past form the tour is more likely to reveal the shape of England's future rather than reprise its past. Hoddle also selected the last of Fergie's "Fledglings", Paul Scholes, to complete the international recognition of Manchester United's remarkable

1992 youth team. Scholes is joined by four other members of that team, Gary and Phil Neville, Nicky Butt and David Beckham. With Gary Pal-lister also in the party David May and Andy Cole, the only English United players not included, must require counselling. Alex Ferguson's wish for his players to

in France will not be screened as pay-per-view by Sky. As well as allowing full radio access, the satellite company will also sup-ply highlights to ITV. "I have not spoken to Alex -

he has had the pressing matter of the championship on his plate." Hoddle said. "He has pate. Froduce said. The has never rung me up and said. 'I don't want player X, Y or Z going on a trip. The squad is picked and I would expect the 22, plus stand-by goalkeeper, who are chosen for France to go. "We have had our eye on Paul

Scholes for some time. He has

Scholes is the only new face which, since Hoddle has already called up 41 players in seven squads, is hardly a surprise. More significant are the disappeared. David Platt, watched by Hoddle on Saturday, remains in the wilderness as do Nick Barmby and, despite Ian Walker being unavailable through injury,

David James. Having chosen four keepers for the last two home matches Hoddle has made do with three for a fivematch squad. Curious.

Darren Anderton, as usual, is

confirmed he would not play against South Africa but refused to rule him out of the Tournoi de France despite Arsène Wenger suggesting Adams' career could be at stake if he does not rest. "There is time to talk to Tony and the medical advisers," Hoddle , said. "I have been aware of his

ankle problem for some time." With that we were on to Gascoigne and the conversation went round the usual circles until a foreign journalist piped up to say: "Mr Hoddle, you have gone on record as saying 'If

tremendous talent and an eye for goal. He can link with midfield or play in a deeper role." still injured while Tony Adams may be included but is likely to play only in Poland. Hoddle dle's jaw dropped along with both tabloid and broadsheet reporters - how had they missed such a stunning story?

Hoddle anxiously insisted he had never said any such thing. though you could almost see a glint of "if only" in his eyes. The rest of the question, about England's lack of midfield creativity, was valid. This is why Hoddle

perseveres with Gascoigne.

"I have spoken to Paul and he has agreed with most things," Hoddle said. "He needs to get back to loving the game of football again, things outside the

needs guidance, he needs to focus. He wants to put his game back together again." It might need all the King's horses and all the King's men to do that but at least, judging by recent ap-pearances, Gascoigne no longer looks like Humpty Dumpty.

IOOks like Humpty Dumpty.

BNSLAND SQUAD (v South Africa, Poland and Tournol de France's: Sousman (Acerol), Rowers, Glacidum), Martyn (Lecis), Adams Lasenal), Rosena (Arsenal), Politica (Mari Lad), Southgiste (Astan Vala), Politica (Mari Lad), Camphali (Spunt), Le Saux (Racidum), P Neullie (Mari Lad), Southgiste (Astan (Mari Lad), Southgiste (Mari Lad), Southgiste

### apartheid state to multi-cul-Derby's muddy Oasis of sulphur and spectacle



Jon Culley on the Baseball Ground, whose suffocating compactness will put visiting Arsenal to the test for the last time tomorrow

here is a magical quality about a football stadium to which small children will testify on first encountering the theatrical splendour of professional match and which stays with many into adulthood.

The imagination plays a part, as does the visual speccacle of a green oasis framed by vast, rising banks of humanity. But probably it has most to do with escapism, with entering a small world from which the greater one beyond is excluded.

Few of Britain's football arenas have demonstrated this phenomenon more effectively than the Baseball Ground. which stages its last senior competitive fixture when Derby County meet Arsenal on Sunday.

It is a stadium where tall grandstands so tightly hug the playing area that almost nothing outside is visible from within. Directional senses go havwire and it is possible to feel quite lost, submerged in a sort of suspended reality, where nothing exists but a football match.

County, for whom the ground has been home since 1895,

have always been reluctant to ed life playing second fiddle; leave. Twice, in the 1920s and 40s, the club rejected opportunities to move on. Indeed, only in the 59th minute of the 11th hour did they agree to next summer's relocation, having at first said no.

Practically unchanged since the 1930s, by which time three of the four sides were effectively as they are today, the Baseball Ground conforms to everyone's vision of the urban, industrial football ground, built among factories and terraced streets and, though the surrounding landscape is much altered, the sense of history remight still be standing, the next-door foundry still beich-

ing smoke.

No longer does the foundry announce its noxious presence, replaced now with smaller, environmentally friendlier units, but its past and the ground's are inseparable. The foundry owner, Sir Francis Ley, the proprietor of Ley's Malleable Castings, developed the field for his work force, although it was set out not for football but baseball, reflecting a passion acquired on a

Perhaps this is why Derby business trip to America. But then County had start-All systems go for the Rams' £16m spaceship

Having twice before turned down moves to more expansive quarters, Derby were simply following historical precedent when they rejected the opportunity to relocate to the new Pride Park development, a little over a mile from the Basehall Ground, writes Jon Culley.

The Rams were invited to take 35 acres of a 200-acre site behind the city's main railway station, part of a project awarded £37.5m in Government funding under the City Challenge

er safet)

But after three years of negotiations, and despite the advantages of easy access, ample parking, and a 30,000-seat stateof-the-art stadium, chairman Lionel Pickering imitated his predecessors in 1924 and 1946 by choosing to stay put, planning to spend £10m on a rebuilt 27,000-seat Baseball Ground.

However, unlike his forebears, Pickering changed his mind. Pride Park returned with a better offer, their own priorities having shifted when Greenwich was chosen to host the Millennium celebrations, leaving them needing the football club as a showpiece.

The decision to move was announced in February 1996, two weeks before work was due to start on the Baseball Ground.

Derby's unnamed new home is already a slightly surreal landmark on the city's bleakly derelict eastern skyline, where it might almost be mistaken for an alien spacecraft. It has cost £16m, offset by a £3.5m grant from the Football Trust.

The Baseball Ground will not vanish straight away. It will host reserve and youth team fixtures while the pitch at the new stadium beds in.

or, more accurately, third, sharing a space with Derby-shire County Cricket Club, in the middle of the town's racecourse. It was a venue good enough to stage an FA Cup final replay in 1886, but disputes over clashing fixtures prompt-ed the football club to leave and an invitation to play on

Ley's ground was taken up. After almost 30 years as paying guests, the club bought the Baseball Ground for £10,000 in 1924, a year after turning down Derby Corporation's suggestion that they move to a £30,000 multi-purmains. The back-to-backs pose stadium a mile to the south. County opted for independence and in the space of a decade transformed their ground, spending £16,000 on the Main Stand and £12,000 on each of two double-deckers, at the Osmaston and Normanton

The Popular Side would have been developed also, but for the closeness of the foundry, the presence of which essentially determined the character of the ground, from the claustrophobic atmosphere that would intimidate visiting teams to the notorious mud

Reg Harrison, who comes from an era when players would walk to the match in company with supporters who were their neighbours, reckons blame for the appalling surface could be laid squarely at the

old proprietor's door. "Every year, they used to send samples of soil for analysis, trying to find out why the grass died," he said. "But everyone knew it was the stuff that came out of those chimneys." Harrison, a winger, first played at the Baseball Ground as a 13-year-old in 1936, in a schools cup final; 10 years later he was a member of the Derby team who went to Wem-

bley to lift the FA Cup. A year before that triumph had come a second offer to move, this time to another proposed municipal venture, a monstrous 78,000-capacity stadium designed by the Wembley architect, Maxwell Ayrton. Again the decision was to stay put, leaving Ayrton's ambitious drawings to gather dust. The Baseball Ground could never reach such proportions, would stink of sulphur."

Metal monument: Derby County's atmospheric and hemmed-in Baseball Ground was shaped by its proximity to a foundry but in 1969 a tier of seats was added on the Popular Side. cantilevered over the foundry's shed roofs to form the Lev Stand. Soon after it was

opened, Derby thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 5-0 before a crowd of 41.826, still the club record, squeezed into a space that, post-Taylor, is restricted to 17,500 seats.

The pitch scarcely improved, however, even while Brian Clough was shaping the side who were to win the championship twice in four seasons. Like Harrison, Alan Durban was happier taking up wide positions, using the better ground. The middle was awful, one of the heaviest, muddiest pitches anywhere, Durban said, "and, what's more, when you fell the mud

Such tales did no harm in putting visitors off their stride; nor did the proximity of the crowd, who were close enough to engage in banter with their own favourites and to rattle the opposition. "It would scare some sides to death, particularly the foreign ones," Durban added, recalling an extraordi-nary night in 1972 when Der-

by destroyed Benfica 3-0 in the

European Cup. Three years later Real Madrid came a similar cropper, losing 4-1 (although, incredibly, they won the tie 6-5 on aggregate). How such nights must have been celebrated in the Baseball Hotel, where the players would have five-a-side practice games in the pub yard, even in Durban's era. It has been demolished now, as have

Photograph: David Ashdown rounding streets, making way for a car park opposite the main entrance in Shaftesbury Crescent and a leisure centre

in Colombo Street, behind

the corrugated sheeting of

the Osmaston End. Once, neighbouring residents would have been happy to see the stadium go the same way, especially during the violent 70s and 80s, when vandalism to cars and property saw home matches throw the area into a state of siege. A far, sad cry from the time when supporters would politely ask householders to look after their bicycles, and happily pay 3d or the service.

Happily, peace has returned, but when quiet descends for good this weekend something of the community's soul will undoubtedly have been lost. a good many of the sur-

### Klinsmann set for Italy move

Jürgen Klinsmann is on the verge of signing for the Italian side Parma, in the process disappointing Tottenham, Everton and Bolton Wanderers.

The Bayern Munich striker has had an offer from the Serie A side which meets his demands for a £2.5m one-year contract, and the deal comes with the promise of a place in the Champions' League if Parma finish second behind Juventus.

Gianfranco Zola has recovered from a hamstring injury and will be fit for the FA Cup final against Middlesbrough. However, he is being rested for Chelsea's last League match against Everton tomorrow. Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, is threatening to quit the club if they do not win the Premiership title within the next two years. "I'll do my best for the next couple of years," he said. "If I can't crack it, I'll let some other brain surgeon come in and have a go. I'll clear off." Across north London, Arsenal

central defender Matthew Upson for a undisclosed fee, beating competition from Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester United and Sheffield Wednesday. The 18-year-old, who has yet to play a full league match, is seen as a long-term

successor at Highbury for the 34-year-old Steve Bould Roy Hodgson is to offer Keith Blunt, the director of coaching at the Football Association's Centre of Excellence, a place on his Rovers back-room team. Blunt is behind the stream of talent emanating from Lilleshall, with Andy Cole and Nick Barmby among his discoveries. Hodgson is also keen to bring in Bobby Houghton as his assistant. The two have been close since their days at Bristol City, when Houghton was man-

ager. Liverpool are to give the Israel captain, Tal Banin, the chance to secure a move to Anfield. Roy Evans is seeking clearance to play the midfielder in the reserve game with Everton on Monday before deciding whether to take him on a free have signed Luton's 18-year-old transfer.

### **Fear of failure haunts** the usual suspects

Mention the play-offs to most football fans and the first images that will come to mind are likely to be of dramatic celebrations on the Wembley stage: Steve Claridge's last-minute winner at ago. Bolton Wanderers' stirring recovery to beat Reading a year earlier and Swindon's seven-goal thriller against Leices-

However, most of the teams involved in this year's play-offs will recall less happy memories as they prepare for the first legs

of the semi-finals this weekend. Between them, the 12 sides in action have appeared in the end-of-season shoot-outs 15 times since their introduction 10 seasons ago. Yet all they have to show for their efforts, despite the odd semi-final success, is two victories in the finals, neither of which came at Wembley: Crystal Palace's 1989 victory over Blackburn and Swansea's win against Torquay a year earlier were both achieved in the days

of two-legged finals played on the clubs own grounds. Palace, moreover, have a less happy and more recent experience of the play-offs, Claridge's last-gasp winner having denied them in the final 12 months ago. Wolves, Palace's visitors in the first leg of the First Division semi-finals today, lost to Bolton at this stage two years ago and in their only previous appearance in the play-offs not even a promising young striker called Steve Bull could overcome the might of Aldershot in the 1987

Fourth Division final. Wolves have been troubled by

Paul Newman on the play-offs, which

start this weekend the end of extra time 12 months injuries recently, but Mark Atkins, Adrian Williams, Iwan Roberts and Simon Osborn are all available again. Steve Froggatt will have a late fitness test, but Neil Emblen and Don Goodman look likely to miss out. Palace are at full strength, although Dougie

Freedman would be suspended if they reached the final. The form team in the First Division play-offs are lpswich, who took 16 points from their last six games. However, injuries will deprive them of Jason Cundy, Simon Milton, Alex Mathie and Richard Naylor when they travel today to Sheffield United, who in turn will be without their leading

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scorer, Andy Walker. In tomorrow's Third Division semi-finals Cardiff meet Northampton and Chester play Swansea, the only club of the four to have play-off experience.

Crewe Alexandra will be hoping to improve on a particularly bleak record when they entertain Luton in the Second Division play-offs tomorrow. Crewe have on the only occasion they progressed to the final were beaten on penalties by York City.

In the other Second Division semi-final Bristol City entertain Brentford, whose manager, Dave Webb, can hardly have inspired his team with his succinct opinion of the play-offs. "All they create is disappointment," he said.

### North-west passage to pre-eminence is a passing phase

There can't currently be much to depress Tony Blair, but the events of Tuesday night must have put a dampener on his mood. Being an alleged Newcastle fan, it must have beengalling for the PM to see Manchester United win the championship again and to note that - to paraphrase the Conservative election slogan - the North-west (at least in football

terms) is booming.

Look no further than the winners of this season's championships from the Premiership to the Vauxhall Conference: United, Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Macciesfield, all situated within a 30-mile radius of Manchester. There's no historical precedent of such a whitewash. and before we get carried away and predict an era of North-west domination, the reality is that it's

unlikely to happen again. Football is, by nature cyclical. Football is, by maintering and This season the cloud has bare- the north London derby, which key lies not on the field, but on and Monaco; Paris St-Germain aren't held in the same high re-

every political party—has its day, by lifted over Brighton and so the same applies to football. Bournemouth, and still hovers over Southampton. had to live with its big three languishing in the Second Division. and Hartlepool and Darlington lying low in the Fourth. East Anglia found itself in the

doldrums in 1994-95 when both Norwich and Ipswich were relegated from the Premiership and Colchester could only manage 17th place in the Third. By the time the following season had ended, a cloud had settled over the South Coast. Southampton scraped survival in the Premiership; ditto Portsmouth in the First Division; Brighton were relegated from the Second; Torquay were spared demotion to the Conference only by the inadequacies of Stevenage's ground; and even Poole Town ended up rock bottom in the Beazer Homes League Southem Division with just one point.

At least Leicester have re-stored some Midlands pride by winning the Coca-Cola Cup. But with Forest already relegated, Coventry looking doomed, and sleeping giants like Birmingham and West Brom seemingly unable to rouse themselves, the Midlands - like the Tory party is a shadow of its former self.

Most surprising of all is the perennial failure of the capital to assert itself. London teams have claimed the League championship just five times in the last 42 years - about as often as Britain's had a Labour government. Theories abound as to why London football can barely hold a candle to northern rivals. The most popular one is that London teams are distracted by the number of derbies they face which is a lame excuse. Not even

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

is no picnic, can compare to the fervour of a Manchester or Mersey derby, or even to the passion generated when United play Liverpool or Leeds. It has nothing to do, either, with a dearth of London-born

players, since in 1970 there

were just 47 Londoners in the

top flight; by 1994-95 that fig-

ure had risen to 94. Rather, the

the terraces. Although the football world loves to rile Manchester United fans as coming from anywhere but Manchester, northern fans tend to have stronger ties with - and feel more passionate about - their club, a passion which is com-

municated to the players.

Yorkshireman Graham Rix once admitted he thought Arsenal lacked the kind of ruthless streak that always saw say, Liverpool out of trouble. Or perhaps it was just that some London-based players had an alternative agenda. When Charlie Nicholas was asked what he enjoyed about playing in London, he replied: Well I never went to Stringfellows that much. I preferred Tramp." Such abject failure by a cap-

ital city is by no means unique

to this country. The French

League has been dominated by

southern clubs like Marseilles

have won the championship twice during their 27-year existence, while only one of the capital's other clubs has won a title: Racing Club Paris, back in 1936. In Italy the northern clubs have enjoyed an almost un-

breakable stranglehold over Serie A since it began in 1930; Napoli (in 1990 and 1997), Roma in 1983, Lazio (in 1974) and Cagliari (in 1970) have been the south's only triumphs. But Ray Wilkins, who's had experience of playing in all three Leagues, claims that while the strength of England's Northwest teams is "frightening", there's no evidence to suggest that a north/south divide exists in England as it does in Italy.

The southern Italian clubs feel a bit hard done to," Wilkins says, "while the northern ones consider themselves superior. Their fans are no less passionate, but the southern teams

gard, even though Napoli have attracted players like Maradona, Careca, Krol and Zola. But I don't believe there's any prejudice in this country. Years ago more players migrated south to north; now it works both ways. And although fans in the north are probably a touch more passionate, this North-west domination is just coincidence; a bunch of good managers and good players coming together at the same time."

Of course Wilkins has also had first-band experience of Scottish football, where the teams in the capital - Tony Blair's birthplace have even less to crow about than London's. Hibs and Hearts have amassed just eight titles between them; in fact, the only Scottish club to have posed a se rious threat to the Old Firm's stranglehold is Aberdeen, who won consecutive League titles in 1984 and 1985... under a certain

### Reading part with Quinn and Gooding

John Madejski, the Reading chairman, has pledged that his club's new manager will have to "go it alone" when he is ap-

The First Division side vesterday parted company with joint player-managers, Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding, after failing to agree new terms with the pair.

The two bosses took over at Elm Park when their former manager Mark McGhee, now with Wolves, left to join Leicester in December 1994 and they guided Reading to the brink of the Premiership after finishing second in the First Division in the year only the top side was

automatically promoted. The Birmingham manager, Trevor Francis, has put his entire staff - 28 professionals - up for sale after finding out that he is to receive less money than he anticipated to bring in new players.

In Monday's 24-page sports section Glenn Moore's football men of the season; Derick Allson at the Monaco GP; Chris Hewett at the Pilkington Cup final

A Chelsea fan who has already expressed a dim view of Wembley is likely to prove a lively Minister for Sport. Mike Rowbottom methods

# Banks promises change of climate

The new Minister for Sport Tony Banks, will of course be at Wembley next Saturday to see his beloved Chelsea. But he has turned down his invitation to watch, the FA Cup final from the Royal Bone

The politician who described him self as "gobsmacked" at being offered his present post will feel more comfortable among fellow Chelsea for lowers on their big Wembley day;

As a season ticket holder, he had already acquired his ticket through: the usual method of queueing. He subsequently accepted an invitation to be the club's guest, and passed his ticket on to another Chelsea sup porter. But when the Department offered him a seat in the Royal Box, he declined.

"The idea of throwing my arms around the Queen when Chelsea score, or screaming the referee's a wanker' which I'm likely to do, probably would not go down too well in the Royal Box," Banks said yes-terday. "I will also be wearing one of those big floppy-top hats and my scarf and rosette. When I'm at football, you know, I like to hug the people that are around me, we jump up and down and we dance. I'm not going to have my enjoyment of one of the great days of my club spoiled by being next to Royalty of no fixed abode."

The style is the man. Like a perennial wit at the back of the classroom, the 54-year-old member for Newham North West has harried and sniped from the Opposition benches, often to spectacular effect. His description of the bulky former Defence Secretary Nicholas Soames as "his own personal food mountain", and his characterisation of the former Transport Secretary Steven Norris as "the Government's most proficient bullshitter" are but two of the verbal initiatives to have earned him rebukes within the House of

Many other barbs have been delivered on television, where Banks has become an amiably waspists. summonable presence over the years. Indeed, he was cooking for a TV food show when the call came from Tony

Blair offering him his current post. His first thought was that the call was from his friend Rory Bremner winding him up. "I wasn't a Shadow Minister," Banks said. "I hadn't done anything to try and become anything. I hadn't modified my behaviour or my public statements. And it's probably not a good time to remind the Prime Minister that I backed Margaret Beckett for the

leadership of the party.
"It flashed through my mind that Rory might be taking the piss. It was just as well I didn't say something like, 'Fuck off, Rory,' Because tha wouldn't have gone down too well."



The Messiah?: The laying-on of hands would be something of a novelty for a Sports Minister but Tony Banks, in full flow yesterday, is a man who believes in getting involved

Photograph: Robert Hallam

rather than the expectant Shadow Minister, Tom Pendry - precisely for

his, what shall we say, vibrancy. "The message that I got is that that is exactly what he does want," Banks said. "I suppose in a way he thinks you can be colourful and you can get things done and you can't actually do much damage. I mean, I'm not likely to end up plunging the country into

Leaning back in his chair at the Department of National Heritage, a tie and waistcoat gentrifying his black denim trousers, he leafed through the latest copy of the Big Issue. "You can't get rid of all homelessness, Mr Blair ... " read the front page message, continuing inside: "But you can have a damn good try." These are heady, challenging times for the new men and women of Labour, Banks included.

"There's no doubt about it, it's scary," he said. "We spent 18 years telling the Tories where they got it to take action. The Prime Minister Perhaps not. But perhaps. Be- made it quite clear throughout the cause, as Banks himself acknowl- whole election campaign that we

other than that which we could deliver. But the size of the vote we received will have excited enormous extra expectation. You can almost reach out and touch the atmosphere at the moment. There's a great feeling of relief in the country, a great feeling that a breath of fresh air has blow through.

Fittingly, the man who describes himself not as Old, or New, but "Vintage Labour" is now talking about creating a different climate in sport, although he steers clear of specific policy discussions on the under-standable grounds that he is still getting to grips with a job he never For all that, the contrast with his

oredecessor, Iain Sproat, could hardy be more marked. Sproat, variously known as "Deep Sproat", "Nothroat Sproat" and the "Invisible Man", resisted invitations to air his views in the media for almost two months after his appointment. He

Banks has already commanded more attention in a week than most edges, the Prime Minister picked him weren't going to promise anything of his predecessors managed in a ca-

reer. But for all his noise, he is no empty vessel. He has been a dogged de-fender of the rights of disabled people. As chairman of arts and recreation for the General London Council, he championed the rights of wheelchair competitors to take part in the London Marathon, a move which met with considerable resistance.

His abhorrence of blood sports is well known, and he is sensitive to other potential risks to animal welfare. He was among those who lobbied for the Grand National to reduce the size of its fences, and there have been some anxious noises among the National Hunt fraternity since his arrival at Cockspur Street He felt the outcry over Britain's

lack of success at last summer's Olympics was disproportionate. "It's very easy for people sitting in front of their televisions to start whingeing on about athletes not winning as many medals as we would have wanted. One of the things that has you need to ask the question, what's the creation of a youth unit within

"If you want to take national pride, as we do, in the achievements of our sports men and women, you've got to be prepared to invest in them. Not when they're famous and they've done it all thanks largely to themselves. But what are we doing now, today, to create the stars of

Prioritisation, however, will be the name of the game.

"Gordon Brown has made it quite clear that there is not much point in sending a pantechnicon up to the Treasury expecting him to load it up with tenners. It isn't going to work like that so we are going to have to be imaginative in the way we allocate our resources.

Banks is intent upon becoming what he describes as "an honest broker, a catalyst, an enabler, and plans to sit down with what he describes as "the iconoclasts" within different sports in this country to discover whether policies can be improved. Among the Labour plea

The immediate topics to which he

is turning his mind alongside the Secretary of State, Chris Smith, are altering the distribution of funds from the National Lottery and evaluating the establishment of a National Academy of Sport, Later this month the Heritage Dream Ticket - alias Smith and Banks - will visit the three shortlisted sites for the Academy at Upper Heyford, Sheffield and Nottingham.

The question of restoring competitive games at schools, a matter cutting people's throats on the stock which greatly exercised his predecessor, is one which generates as much heat in Banks, although for difmarket, which, putting it crudely, is the way the simple minds of some of ferent reasons.

He resists any invitation to have a. pop at boxing, one of Sproat's pet sports. "I boxed at school," he said. I enjoy boxing, although I don't like it when it gets gory. But seeing 'Prince' Naseem box, seeing his move-

Britain done for Linford Christie? the sports ministry, and using Lot- it was an ideological thing with the protesting.

tery money to create after-school Conservatives, because competition for them is a buzzword, and its a buzz-word as far as they were concerned in the economy as much as it was in sport. I am not ideological in my sporting approach. But the idea that the only sports worth encouraging are competitive sports, you know ..." The Department aide at Banks's right

hand flinches momentarily in antick ipation ... "is bollocks. It's ideological bollocks. And I hope that you ain't going to see much ideologica bollocks around here. "That's the thing that prepares people so they can go off and start

the previous Conservative politicians operate. "Anyway." he added with a grin;
"You shouldn't have got me going on that one. Touch the button and I'm

But it is, and will be, such fun to hear the new Sports Minister warm: dealy hear that Linford Christie is committed to carrying through are has won a medal for Britain. I think an end to the sale of playing fields, of competitive sports as such, he be-But when he contemplates the idea ing to his rhetorical theme in the next comes less lyrical. "It's almost as if haven't stopped him dreaming - or

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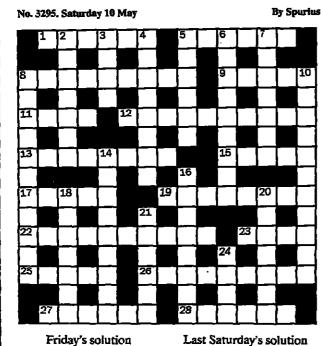
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### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



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rific price, subject to ex-treme reductions (6) Just as the consumer requires? (6)
Left notice about Benefits Agency incomplete, missing initial (9) Boredom shown by union

leader involved in limitless court proceedings? (5)
11 Everyone's enquiring about crop harvest first of all (4) ! Implement made from nickel, mostly safe to keep in pocket, originally (5.5) 13 New production of play in

a church somewhere in the States (8) Mean to get drunk (5)
One answer that's printed in boring journal (5)
19 Where some would be all

at sea and in a mess? (8)
22 Modulation of voice by student in grip of illness (10) 23 Stop bishop making wounding remark (4) 25 Plant's a decoration. brought in by journalist (5) 26 Make regular meals, in or

judicious tear (6) 28 Painter needing to make a phone call from the centre

Support structure in some chaotic situation (7) New union member not at first given lift (4) Fight continued, involving French policeman (8) English lord established his tide rests on primogen-

hard way? (3-6) Quantity of fish found halfway up staircase? (7) A row about old article doctor's written in iambic verses (11)

10 Im appearing in list topped by Spanish girl -that's priceless (11) Short poem by academic churchman (3, 6)

16 Worker rolling barrel out, mostly (8) Pleasant fellow featuring in a legend (7) Instrument recording zero

on vehicle during acceleration? (7) 21 Very careful with pen, one no good for filling (6) Character showing heart,

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: E Sadale, Solibull: B Sanderson, Wigan; A Scott, Keith; G Lange, Oberhausen, Germany; C Ward, Liendrindod Wella.

### In the footsteps of the invisible men

#### Mike Rowbottom reflects on the

impact of previous Ministers for Sport

In truth, Tony Banks does not have many hard acts to follow. Labour have only had one previous Minister for Sport - the former international referee Denis Howell, who fulfilled the role during the Wilson and

Callaghan governments. In 1991, Howell - widely regarded as being the best sports minister to date - looked back on what he described as 12 years of neglect by his Conservative successors, whom he collectively termed "helpless and hopeless."

Harsh words from a man no less direct in expressing himself than the latest incumbent. But Howell's analysis at the time was largely borne out by the facts, and there has been little since to provoke a major re-evaluation. Since Lord Hailsham first persuaded Harold Macmillan to appoint a national sporting supremo in 1962 – it turned out to be Lord Hailsham - the post has all too often become a po-

litical graveyard. Hector Munro, Robert Key, Neil Macfarlane, Robert Atkins, Dick Tracey - where are they

The job itself, which under the

#### Those sports ministers in full (Conservative unless stated)

1962-64 Lord Hailsham 1964-70 Denis Howell (Lab) 1987-90 Colin Moynihan

1970-74 Eldon Griffiths 1974-79 Denis Howell (Lab) 1979-81 Hector Munro 1981-85 Neil Macfarlane

Tories never ranked higher than parliamentary under-secretary level, has been something of a poisoned chalice. Macfarlane, who took over

from the short-lived Munro in 1981, was jettisoned by Margaret Thatcher in 1985 after the Football Association's decision to rescind its punishment of Millwall and Luton following the riot at Kenilworth

Tracey, a supporter of retaining sporting links with South Africa and a proponent of capital punishment, was installed as a tougher operator. But circumstances worked against him - he was soon complaining that he spent only 20 per cent of his working day

raised by Tracey's successor, Colin Moyniban, who took over at the age of 31 sporting an impressive curriculum vitae. An Oxford Blue at boxing

Tony Banks (Lab)

1985-87 Richard Tracey

1990-92 Robert Atkins

1992-93 Robert Key

1993-97 lain Sproat

and rowing who coxed the British eight to an Olympic silver medal in 1980, the diminutive ladies' man established a reputation outside the sporting sphere when he squired Pamella Bordes to a number of

But events then swept Moynihan away. In the wake of British booliganism at the 1988 European Championships, he was charged with introducing Mrs Thatcher's favoured solution of identity cards for supporters. In the wake of the Hillsborough disaster of 1989, however, Lord The profile of the job was Justice Taylor rejected the

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idea as being unworkable Moynihan's trajectory dipped Enter Robert Atkins, whose friendship with the new Tors leader, John Major, led Nigel Lawson, then secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation, to hail them at

"the Dream Ticket." Rashly, as it turned out Atkins, whose uncanny likely ness to Christopher Lee caused his civil servants to refer to him as "Dracula", took an unconscionable time to get his teeth into the task. "What you won't hear is me telling sport how it should be done, he maintained - curiously, given that he was working on a review of Britain's sporting structure,

The bulk of the review's conclusions were rejected. however, by Iain Sproat, the last of the Tory incumbents. He said the proposals were unwieldy and bureaucratic.

Sproat, dubbed in some quarters the "Invisible Man" worked diligently enough in his four-year term, seeking to restore competitive games to schools - notably, and con troversially, boxing - and working towards the seismic at rival of National Lottery fund ing. Banks's central task will the to oversee the consequent reshaping of the sporting land?

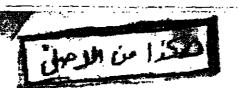
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**IMAGE OF** THE WEEK

Eyes front. And cameras and flashlights. The film festival at Cannes wouldn't be the same without the ritual of the stars, starlets, hopeful and hopeless lining up to have their picture taken. This time the victim was actor Gary Oldman. 'Over 'ere Gary.' Photograph by Brian Harris with 105mm lens at 250th of a second at f5.6 on 160 ASA film. To order a print of this picture (price £14) phone 0171-293 2534

# thelongweekend

vatch my father's uncomfortable smile as 🕆 he looks on at the scene, wanting a better welcome for his brother, but neglecting to intervene for fear of offending my mother and giving her the excuse he suspects she is

looking for to extend her hostility to him. I look to see what kind of danger Uncle Bango brought with him into our front yard on those Saturdays, but there was nothing I could identify as threatening. And I knew of no possession of his, or of any previous differences between either my mother and him, or him and my father, no family quarrel. All that I could see separating him from my other uncles was this story that he was ever willing to tell. So it had to be his story.

"Watch the landscape of this island," he began with the self-assured conviction that my mother couldn't stand in him. "And you know that they could never hold people here surrended to unfreedom." The sky, the sea, every green leaf and tangle of vines sing freedom. Birds frisk and flitter and whistle and sing. Just so a yard cock will draw up his chest and crow. Things here have their own mind.

The rain decide when it going to fall. Sometimes in the middle of the day, the sky clear, you hear a rushing swooping sound and voops it fall down. Other times it set up whole day and then you sure that now, yes, it going to fall, it just clear away. It had no brooding inscrutable wilderness here. There was no wild and passionate uproar to make people feel they is beast, to stir this great evil wickedness in their blood to make them want to go out and murder people.

Maybe that madness seized Columbus and the first set of conquerors when they land here and wanted the Carib people to believe that they was gods; but, afterwards, after they settle in the island and decide that, yes, is here we going to live now, they begin to discover how hard it was to be gods.

The heat, the diseases, the weight of armour they had to carry in the hot sun, the imperial poses they had to strike, the powdered wigs to wear, the churches to build, the heathen to baptize, the illiterates to educate, the animals to tame, the numerous species of plants to name, history to write, flags to plant, parades to make, the militia to assemble, letters to write home.

And all around them, this rousing greenness bursting in the wet season and another quieter shade perspiring in the dry.

### **WORDS OF THE WEEK**

### And then it dawn on them that you can't defeat people

Earl Lovelace won the Commonwealth Writers Best Novel award with 'Salt' and has been on tour reading his work. This is an extract



On top of that they had to put up with the noise from Blackpeople. Whole night Blackpeople have their drums going as they dance in the bush. All those dances. All those lascivious bodies leaping and bending down. They couldn't see them in the dark among the shadows and trees; but,

they could hear.

They had to listen to them dance the Bamboula Bamboula, the Quelbay, the Manding, the Juba, the Ibo, the Pique, the Halicord, the Coromanti, the Congo, the Chiffon, the Banda, the Pencow, the Cherrup, the Kalinda, the Bongo. It was hard for Whitepeople. It had days they wanted to just sit down under a breadfruit tree and cool off, to reach up and pick a ripe mango off the tree and eat it.

It had times they just wanted to jump into the sea and take a sea bath, to romp with a girl on a bed of dead leaves underneath the umbrella of cocoa trees. They try, but they had it very hard.
They walk a little distance and then they had to stop, perspiration soaking them, sticking their clothes to their bodies. It was so hot. They had to get these big roomy cork hats to wear to keep

their brains cool. They had to get people to fan them. People to carry their swords, people to carry cushions for them to sit down on. They had to get people

to beat people for them, people to dish out lashes - seventy-five, thirty-five, eighty-five. But, what else to do? People had to get licks to keep them in line. How else they could carry on The Work. feeding all those people, giving them rations, putting clothes on their back. And it was hard. It was very hard to mould the Negro character, to stamp out his savage tendencies.

They tried to make provisions for allowing him innocent amusement after Mass and until evening prayers, to see that he didn't cohabit without benefit of matrimony, to lay out the work for him to do, to pass around later to see that he do it. No, really, they try. They reduced the number of lashes to twenty-five. They tried in administering the floggings to make sure and not to cause the effusion of blood or contusion; but,

what else to do? There was no natural subservience here. Nobody didn't bow down to nobody just so. To get a man to follow your instructions you had to pen him and beat him and cut off his ears or his foot when he run away. You had to take away his woman from him and his child. And still that fel-

low stand up and oppose you. But these fellars here. These fellars was the most lawless and rebellious set of fellars they had in the Caribbean, the majority of them danger-

ous rebels exiled here from the other islands, men that had no cure, fellars whose sport was to bust one another head, fellars who make up their mind to dead, who land on the wharf from Martinique and Grenada and St Lucia and from wherever

they bring them singing.

And it wasn't just men alone. It had women there that was even more terrible. They had to ban them from talking. They had to ban them from walking and from raising up their dresstail and shaking their melodious backsides. They wasn't easy. The plantation people couldn't handle them. They beat them. They hold them down and turn them over and do them whatever wickedness they could manage; but they couldn't break them.

And then it dawn on them that you can't defeat people. Then they find out that people too stu-pid to be defeated. They too harden. They don't learn what you try to teach them. They don't hear you. They forget. You tell a man to do something and he tell you he forget. You tell him to shoot and he forget to load the rifle. You tell him to get up at five, and nine o'clock he now yawning and stretching: he didn't hear you; or, he hear something different to what you tell him. You is the expert, but he believe that he know better than you what it is you want him to do, and he

do it and he mess it up.
Four hundred years it take them to find out that you can't keep people in captivity. Four hundred years! And it didn't happen just so. People had to revolt. People had to poison people. Portof-Spain had to burn down. A hurricane had to hit the island. Haiti had to defeat Napoleon. People had to run away up the mountains. People had to fight. And then they agree, yes.

We can't hold people in captivity here. But now they had another problem: it was not how to keep people in captivity. It was how to set people at liberty.

From 'Salt' by Earl Lovelace. Faber & Paber £15.99. Copies can be ordered from Faber and Faber Ltd, 3 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AU, Cheque for £13.99 payable to Faber & Faber, or by credit card. Phone 01279 417134. Readings from Commonwealth writers at the Birmingham Renders and Writers Festival today - 0121 440 3838.

### INSIDE

Julia Sawalha

No vodka, no band. The **Bolshoi hits Las Vegas** 



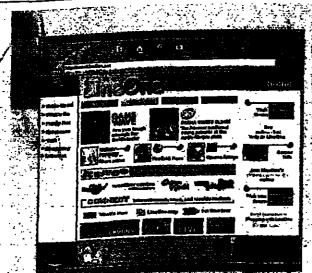
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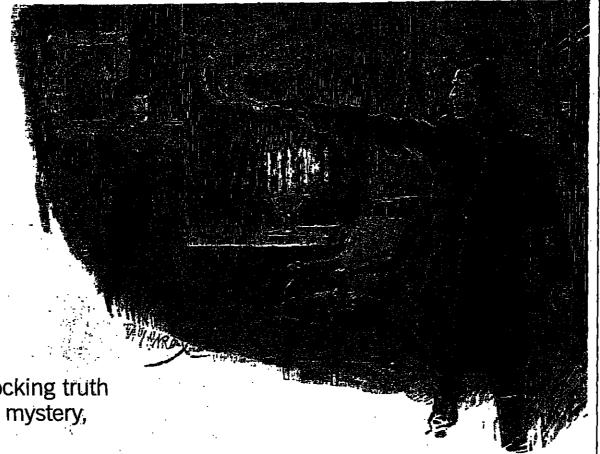
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# Enjoying a little murder at dinner



Chris Maslanka reveals the shocking truth about no-holds-barred, murder mystery, fancy-dress dinner parties

ictional crime is, if anything, more popular than real crime, and it is clear that detective novels and murder First there is extremely demystery fulfil a basic human need. Games and crime fiction let us escape the humdrum conundrums of the everyday. Our lives are al-ready cluttered with halfstarted projects and half-finished problems. We want problems with a definite solution that can be demolished in a safe environment and restricted time-frame. We want fantasy.

This is the haven afforded by crime fiction: the promise of adventure safely packaged to enjoy at leisure. But crime novels are essentially solitary and passive pursuits. Murder mystery games, on the other hand, are not only sociable but have the added dimension of allowing active participation, even to the extent of being the murderer.

For a murder mystery game to work well, the designer has to be even more meticulous than the crime novelist. The characters are no longer pinned to a page but are played by one's acquaintances, dressed up as outrageous characters. A successful game has not only detailed notes helps to stress to supply a plot, but also to guide the participants ement in murder mystery is through a welter of detail at such practical problems as what to do if one of the characters fails to turn up at the last minute because of a

baby-sitter problem. The best that I have tested so far are the A La Carte range – "Vintage Murder" (Bepuzzled, 6 players, £17.99) and "Pasta, Passion & Pistols" (Bepuzzled, 6-8 players, £17.99). They have worked hard to identify the key ingredients that make for

a successful murder mystery evening foreseen the difficulties that could arise and made provisions for them.

tailed preparation. The host sends out invitations to each of the guests explaining not only the characters that they will adopt but also advising on dress and play. While guests are struggling with their characters and dress in such roles as Désirée de Bouze "elegant, self-possessed chatelaine of Château, de Reims", or Rocco Scarfazzi, rumoured to be in the "laundering" business, the host is busy arranging the ambience and the food. Here the attention to detail was excellent: there is advice on lighting, music, place settings and, most importantly, sustenance. Full dinner menus are provided, drawn

At the same time as recognising that having the right food is as important to crime mystery as it is to seduction, A La Carte recognises that it is your evening and is flexible enough to include easier and cheaper alternatives for the less expansive host.

up by expert cookery writers.

Even if you skimp on the details, the game will still work, but the inclusion of the an important fact: a key elfantasy: people are given bitionists. A safe and wellprepared arena is provided for you to act like a Mafioso or to don a black leather dress and be a tart for the

evening. A La Carte gives full weight to the importance of the fantasy element and they include something that, from my survey of other available games on the market, seems unique to them: preceding and separating the three question and answer rounds are sections of dialogue which are "to be acted out with as much expression and accent as you can muster for your character." These dialogue sections contain information but also serve to break the ice and, crucially, to model the behaviour appropriate to the characters.

In "Pasta, Passion & Pis-

solve the problem of what to do if someone fails to turn up as they can simply slot into one of the six key roles without thereby affecting the smooth running of the plot.

Although in games such as Pasta, Passion & Pistols" and "Vintage Murder", the planning has been done for you, that does not mean that the players can just sit back



June Duprez hanging around in the 1945 Agatha Christie film 'And Then There Were None'

function is to encourage reenactment of scenes, to "get people off their chairs and demonstrate what really hap-"floating characters" also how carried away they are on in which what is important range.

tols" there are also two 'float- and pig out all evening. ing characters' whose There is, after all, a murder to be solved. As the drama unfolds, a certain amount of information has not only somehow to be got across to pened" - adding charaderie the players: it also has to be is a spectacle. An evening's action. Moreover it is the to the camaraderie. These absorbed by them no matter

getting in being Marco Roni or Clair Voyant, or how good the food is or how intoxicating the wine.

The necessary informa-

tion is imparted in many

ways, partly by reading the booklets and by questioning other characters and assessing their replies. You are given very structured guidance on the questions to ask, what you are trying to elicit and what to hide. There are the dialogues and the re-enactment of scenarios prompted by the floating characters. There are also Chiedo-esque and tangible clues such as letters which add further authenticity. And, in case you have drifted off, the cassette brings even the most distractable up to speed at the end of each round by providing a timely and humorous résumé of what people should have gleaned of the investigation. (Again, this feature is unique to A La Carte and reflects their awareness of things which could hamper the flow of the game). This approach makes the assimilation of the key facts easy and does away with the need for making notes on napkins.

Finally, of course, there is the solution to the mystery. the moment to which all the preparations have been directed. Although the mystery contains an element of comnetition, it is essentially sociable: there are no winners or losers. Just as much fun is had from acting out a character and bantering as in guessing how the crime was committed. No-one is left feeling a failure or left out but ready to return to the everyday less soluble problems with renewed vigour.

What A La Carte provides entertainment to splash out most expensive game in the

is not just the solution to the

puzzle but something played out like a fully-blown drama. We enjoyed the plot of Death in St James (sic) Park", (Murder Mystery Parties, University games, 6 players, £19.99) however the support material was flimsy: there were no clues to speak of apart from a crossword which distracted from, rather than added to, the proceedings. The tape gave only the briefest outline of the scenatio in a grating American accent hardly compatible with the atmosphere of 1940s War Cabinet, London. ("This tape will self-destruct in five seconds!"). The costume and role suggestions are in the host's booklet but not on the invitations and the characters are underdeveloped. "The Watersdown Affair"

(Decipher Inc, 8 players. £21,99) from the "How to Host a Murder" series is another American import and as such some of the details are a bit off (Sir Roger Watersdown invites you to be his weekend guest at Watersdown Mansion, Yorkshire "Friday through Sunday"). The English Inspector on the tape is actually an American speaking in his idea of an English accent; only one menu is suggested: Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding (with Roast beef cooked on a spit?). These details are the game less convincing.

Although it has nicely turned-out clues, there are no dialogue sections nor any taped résumés of the action so far - which is a pity because there is a great deal of circumstantial and geographical information to absorb and this made it more difficult to keep up with the

### Games people play

Pandora Melly on wives battered with mallets aforethought

Literary Review

I've never been able to cope with moving balls as I haven't very good eyesight. But I can hit a stationary ball, and I find that Croquet is one of the few things I'm very good at, particularly on my home course.

I do slightly have my own rules, because the traditional game can be quite boring as you always have one partnership playing miles ahead of the other through different hoops. It's better if everybody plays through the same hoop. A bit like golf, except that you can croquet every ball that tries to get through a hoop, and as soon as the second ball and partnership have been through the hoop, the turn passes and you're on to the next one.

Perhaps I should explain that when you croquet a ball, you hit a ball with your ball, then you put your ball up against it and have another hit, then you have a third hit independently, shich gives you a tremendous advantage. Croquet is considered a rather

vindictive game, bit it needn't be, although sometimes people lose

Anberon Wangh, 57, Editor of The their tempers. On one occasion, I saw the beautiful wife and the exeditor of a famous daily newspaper being struck by her. husband with a croquet mallet, which is a very dangerous thing to

It is a lovely game, because tactics and skill are of equal importance, and it also works off your aggression a timy bit. A lot of players are very good af hiring balls but they can't do the factors. You can knock your opponents for sizif you want to a little it's the end of your turn. Size you're using other people the wiple time to help your ball along, which makes me think that the ideal psychological profile for success at Croquet is "happy and ruthless".

Historic croquet hoops and mallets will be on show at: "With Mallets Aforethought", an exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Croquet Association, at the Wimbledon Luwn Tennis Museum starting Tuesday 13 May. Closed on Mondays, (except bank holiday Mondays), not open to the general public during the Lawn Tennis Championships. £2.50 adults, £1.50 concessionary. (0181-946-6131).

### Don't junk it ... use it Save some bread by using your loaf



Using your loaf in an intelligent manner: the right way

A basic bread-and-water recipe this week: the water-bottle bread bin. You will need two of those large plastic mineral water containers that look like small petrol cans, but make sure you get the slightly ribbed ones which are a little wider at the top than at the

After drinking the water, cut the top off one of them just past the point where its shoulder begins to widen. Then cut the other one lower down. Your

decision on where to cut depends on the length of your loaf of

2023 To

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Y . -

Slide one half into the other and there you have it: an elegant see-through, water-resistant bread container. If you want a matching bread bin for French loaves, you can make one as long as you like from a number of plastic softdrink bottles. You can even create a telescopic, slide-and-fit effect.

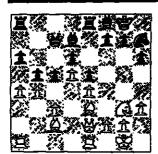
Bawn O'Beime-Ranelagh



Failing to use your loaf intelligently: the wrong way

The games page is edited by William Hartston

### Chess William Hartston



There were a couple of moments in Deep Blue's victory in the second game of its match against Garry Kasparov when the computer showed that its massive calculating power has enabled it to move into areas of strategy that other machines cannot reach. The first came in the

diagram position when Deep Blue, playing White, moved its rook from e1 to c1. The move appears pointless, yet conceals a good deal of venom. First, Black is discouraged from playing ... cxb4, because his queen would then be on the same open line as the white rook; second, White opens the possibility of playing a later c4 himself, again embarrassing the queen.

When Kasparov replied by closing the game with ...c4, it was clear that Rec1 had served its purpose. As every experienced Ruy Lonez player knows, once Black has played ...c4, he not only deprives himself of Q-side counterplay, but also gives White the opportunity to play f4. gaining control of d4 if

Black replies with ...exf4. Deep Blue must have worked all that out for

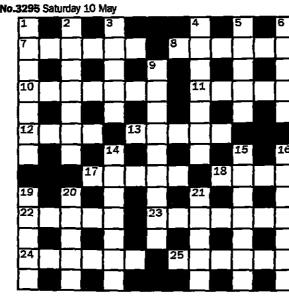
itself before playing Rec1. After 23.Rec1 c4, the machine again showed the septh of its calculations by playing 24.Ra3. Humans know the plan of Ra3, and doubling rooks on the a-file before playing axb5. Deep Blue once again worked it out from first principles. The next surprise came a

dozen moves later.

a clear advantage thanks to his passed d-pawn and chances of attacking b5. Everyone expected Deep Blue to play 36.Qb6, with the double threat of 37.Qxd6 and 37.axb5. Black would then have to gamble on 36...Rd8 37.axb5 Rab8 38.Qxa6 e4 followed by

Qe5 with counterplay. Scorning the materialistic approach, however, Deep Blue played the patient 36.axb5 axb5 37.Be4, keeping Black squashed and leaving his own attack for later. It was a very human sort of decision for

### Concise crossword



**ACROSS** 

In this position, White hs

a machine to make.

### DOWN

Admonished (6) Making mistakes (6) 10 Bird (7) 11 Piece of furniture (5) 12 Slope (4) 13 Poison (5) 17 Hawaiian greeting (5) 18 Scented powder (4)

(3,4) 24 Injury (6) 25 Deepen channel (6)

22 French river (5) 23 Inequitable treatment

Ungainly (7) Paper-folding (7) Commenced (5) Speech (7) W Indian dance (5) Concur (5) Swiss wind instrument

14 Hypersensitive reaction

15 Cigarette-butts (3-4) 16 Surgical implement (7) 19 Unrefined (5) 20 Punctuation mark (5) 21 Prize (5)

### Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Kept in, 4 Stable (Captain's table), 7 Doctorate, 9 Natl, 10 Oxen, 11 After, 13 Yearly, 14 Thorny, 15 Employ, 17 Enamel, 19 Wince, 20 Guat, 22 Atom, 23 Raspberry, 24 Fielde, 25 Aghast, DOWN: 1 Kidney, 2 Tool, 3 Notify, 4 Sorbet, 5 Alto, 6 Evenly, 7 Disappear, 8 Extremity, 11 Allow, 12 Rhine, 15 Engulf, 16 Yippee, 17 Eczema, 18 Limpet, 21 Talk, 22 Arch.

### **Bridge** Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer North North **♦**Q62 ♥A 1093 ЭAК **♣**J752 West East

**497 ◆**AJ1083 ♥KJ6 ♥Q752 ♦108532 **0**J964 **♣**K3 ₽8

South **♠**K54 ଅ84 0Q7 ♣AQ10964

North opened 1♣, East bid 1♠, and South faced his first problem. Clearly too good for 34, he considered 2NT but decided that (if partner passed) it was unlikely that the hand would play for exactly eight tricks. His final choice, of plunging to 3NT, was not too bad an idea. What would you have bid? 2♠, I hope - if partner has a spade bolster, the no-trump game may well play better from his hand.

With South as declarer in 3NT. West led ◆9. After the

### **Perplexity**

Mixed doubles:

Slender harm than armed static trot.

The above sentence conceals three connected one-word answers. To find them, all you have to do is to group the six given words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. A prize of the new Chambers 21st Dictionary will be

play and declarer has nine tricks. Note the importance of winning the second spade and not ducking, for then an astute East will switch to a heary and so establish five tricks for the

vulnerable overcall it seemed

likely that East held the missing

♣ K, so declarer let the lead run

round to his king, crossed to a

won, returned his remaining

spade, and was delighted to

four tricks.

watch his partner take the next

That had been the second

solve. In spite of 3NT being

problem that South had failed to

played from the wrong hand, he

could still have recovered. Any

ideas? Try the effect of playing

east decided to duck, declarer

in spades. So, almost certainly,

finds that he has a second guard

East wins and returns the suit but

now South wins immediately, crosses to dummy as before with

a diamond and finesses in clubs.

the difference now, of course, is

that West has no more spades to

♦Q from dummy at trick one! If

top diamond, and ran #J. West

awarded to the sender of the first

set of correct answers, when we

open entries on 21 May. Answers

1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf,

to: Perplexity. The Independent,

### London E14 5DL.

26 April report: Dates in May that cannot be turned into valid sums under the rules given are 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 22 and 27. If a decimal point is also allowed, then all except 6.5.97 and 9.5.97 can be done. Winner: Ben Driver (London)

### **Backgammon** Chris Bray

I have often praised Jellyfish, the best commercially available backgammon program but now is an appropriate time to remind you of this strangely named product as there have recently been further developments.

Jellyfish is based on neural net technology and first came on the market some three years ago. Until that time "Expert Backgammon", designed on more traditional lines, had been the leading program. Jellyfish consists of two elements, "Player" and "Analyser". If you just want to play a game then only the Player version is required. Analyser provides the facility to roll out positions thousands of times to gain an accurate understanding of the correct plays and doubling decisions in a given position. The program runs under Windows 95 or Windows 3.x.

The Player version plays at an advanced level and you will have to concentrate hard to have a chance of beating it. It has excellent options such as seven different playing levels. It will comment on your moves and even suggest better ones - what's more it's nearly always right! You can record your games and matches and then either print them out or replay them on the screen move by move, with comments if required. It is a superb learning tool and I would recommend it to anyone who is serious about improving his or her game.

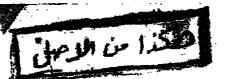
Version 2.0 improved significantly on Version 1.0 and now comes news of Version 3.0. This new version plays an even stronger game and in particular it has improved its playing of back games and prime versus prime positions. It has an improved user interface and is much quicker than previous versions (I have had no trouble running level 7 on a 486 100 Mhz PC). Both the new Player and Analyser versions are currently in the final stages of testing and will be available in late May or early June - in fact a trial

version of the Player is available now. The good news for those who only want the Player version, is that it can be downloaded from the Internet as shareware to try out. If you then want to use it regularly, you send the vendor a nominal fee (\$30) for continued usage. The Internet address for obtaining Jellyfish 3.0 is:

http://www.effect.no/jelly.html For those without Internet access you can contact the vendors directly at:

Effect Software AS, Brugata 1, N-0186 Oslo. Norway. Tel: 0047 22 17 71 90 Fax: 0047 22 17 05 42

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damion Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst ... TURN TO PAGE





### John Walsh

### meets Julia Sawalha

here are two problems in Julia Sawalha's life. One is that people tend to confuse her with Helena Bonham Carter. They show her to her rival's chair (and vice versa) at awards ceremonies. The second is that she was born too late. Quite soon after you first meet her, you realise that she is, in fact, an unreconstructed Sixties chick masquerading as a Nineties actress. Everything about her - her hair, her opinions, her passions, her spare-time activities, her maquillage, her jewellery - even her taste in music - all yell "Sixties!" at you. If ever there was a girl born to have a bunch of marigolds drawn in biro on her upper cheek, Ms Sawalha is it.

ising your loaf

Strain C Bertaille

mon Ons Bay

Which is odd, given that her fame still rests largely on her portrayal of a straightlaced teenager with nothing but contempt for Sixties culture, as expressed in the clothes, habits and vocabulary of her mother. Saffron and Absolutely Fabulous returned to the nation's television screens last week, to confirm that there's no prig like a female prig, and no one who can embody one better than Julia S.

Another side of the actress can be seen next weekend, when Channel 4 presents McLibel!, Dennis Woolf's three-hour reconstruction of the three-year courtroom jousting tournament between the McDonald's burger Leviathan and the two London anarchists, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, who dared to say rude things about them. Sawalha plays Steel as a sullen, endlessly sceptical figure amazed to find that she may have right on her side after all.

Between these embodiments of scorn, she has taken to costume drama like a duck to l'orange, playing the hoydenish, soldier-mad Lydia Bennett in Andrew Davies's adaptation of Pride and Prejudice and the put-upon Mercy in Martin Chuzzlewit a year earlier. "I like the way everything swings back and forth in this job," she remarks. "One minute, I'm looking after a boozy mother in a modern comedy, the next I'm being beaten around the head

by Keith Allen in a Dickens novel ... " So when you meet her you're prepared for a bit of a shape-changer, a sophisticate, a wary, eyebrow-raising ack-tress. Instead, you get a voluble gigglepuss with a Sarf-London accent and a sensibility that's closer to Biba than Prada.

Sawalha is, shall we say, a surprise. Nothing you have seen, on small or big screen, prepares you for how amazingly pretty she is in the flesh, her completely round, doll-like face surmounted by a Medusa jungle of chestnut curls that cascade over her brow. Her eyes are piercingly grey-green and their whites shine like Martin Bell's best suit. Her long eyelashes have an unearthly, tarantulan quality that you might ascribe to art rather than nature, except that nothing about Sawalha appears to be false.

She is, it turns out, a vegetarian, an environmentalist, a feminist and a poet; but also a drinker, a smoker, a good-time girl and a chatterbox of appealing indiscretion. Nobody who can be so many contradictory things is trying to sell you an image of themselves. She sports a silver bracelet and three rings, with another one, set about with runic Eastern symbols, on a chain around her neck. And she laughs a lot, like an exhibit in a demonstration of hysteria before Victorian medical students. She seems, by turns, too silly for words, and too gorgeous to be true. Why had she wanted



# too gorgeous to be true

rang me and said the words Greenpeace McDonald's, I didn't have a clue about the McLibel case; but when I met Dennis Woolf, I thought, I've got to support this. I was a Greenpeace supporter already, and then I found that London Greenpeace is just five people and I got really interested."
As the world knows, in 1985 the quintet were distributing leaflets (headed "What's Wrong with McDonald's?") laying several accusations at the hooves of the beef giant: that they tortured animals, caused food poisoning, exploited staff, sold food linked to cancer and heart disease; and, for good measure, that they were destroying the rainforests. McDonald's tracked down the leaflet's perpetrators and served libel writs on them. Three apologised; Steel and Morris didn't. The ensuing trial was expected to last three or four weeks; instead it dragged on for a record 313 days. "I really admired the story of their struggle not to be silenced," said Sawalha. "I hadn't had the time or the chance before to use my name to help... I believe in people saying what they want if they believe

in fighting a cause." Could she have become involved in a different cause? Say, the Bridgewater Four? "No, there's something special about attacking big corporations - and especially McDonald's". What had she got against McDonald's? "It distresses me when I take my seven-year-old nephew out. I cook healthy food, and he wants to go to McDonald's. He doesn't even like the food, he just wants the toys, the Happy Meals. I can't stand to see people

walking down the street eating fast food." On the face of it, I said, the role didn't offer a lot of scope for an actress, being confined to long periods in the defendants' box looking cross and saying "Yeah?" to

to play Helen Steel? Was it a personal cru- the snooty QC with her hands in her jeans My Darling, My Hamburger. I watched in sade? "Yeah, definitely. When my agent pockets. "Not at all," said Sawalha, "it was fascination as she extracted a Silk Cut, a challenge because you had to play it nipped off the final couple of centimetres ch. It's very hard to d something factual and not make it look overdone; but also not to make it look so under-dramatised that it's dull."

> Sawaiha has been a keen environmentalist for years, since she went to Windsor Great Park and watched, unsmiling, as Winnie the Whale and friends cavorted for

> "It was so distressing to see the dolphins banging themselves up against the wall, having to perform. It disgusted me." She is a fan of the ineffable Swampy, is deeply suspicious of the judiciary system and has little faith in the New Labour dawn. "I

"I'm giving up smoking. I only smoke down to there ...

She is, as her surname gives away but

her complexion does not, half-Jordanian. She grew up in Upper Norwood in southeast London. Her father Nadim is an actor (he plays the wise and chortling Dr Shaban in Dangerfield). Nadim created a Bedouin tent affair, made of satin, in the family dining-room, "and we would have feasts, with singing and dancing, with lots of arak, which is like ouzo and we were allowed to drink it because it was medic-

inal". Her mother is "from Surrey -

I was going to vote for old Tony, but to tell the truth I lost my voting card. I was running around, a tiny bit pissed... 7

think they're all as bad as each other. And completely". Was she aware of being different from her schoolfriends? "Only I didn't vote last week. I was going to vote for old Tony, but to tell the truth I lost my voting card. I was running round, a tiny bit pissed, at half past six in the evening..."

This Bridget Jones side of her nature can be either grating or enchanting, depending on your point of view. Julia Sawalha radiates a kind of wayward innocence, a girlish helplessness that would bring out, I'm afraid, manly-protector instincts in the most new-mannish of New Men. In her spare time, she says, she writes poems, sets them to music and plays them on the guitar. She likes Fleetwood Mac and Led Zeppelin. Her favourite book appears to be a teenage novel called

from people saying things like, 'You're dirty, 'cos you're an Arab and you eat with your hands.' And I'd go home and say to my Mum, 'Are we dirty?' And she'd say. Tell them Arabs are a damn sight cleaner than any of them.'

But I grew up very proud of my culture and very happy to have, you know, two sides..." Was her father a Muslim? "No, he's a Christian. A spiritual man. But he never pushed any belief on us. When I was nine, I asked what God was, and should I believe in him and they said, 'If you want to pray at the end of your bed and believe in something up above, that's up to you.'

lim, I wouldn't be sitting here now." archeologist in Jordan." Wasn't it more likely she'd be married off to a Jordanian businessman and stuck at home dressed in a chador, minding the children and never going out? "Yeah, probably. But I'd

still be diggin around in my back garden." God forbid. Sawalha decided for herself on an acting career at the tender age of 10. She went to the Italia Conti stage school. "I'd always gone to dance classes, while my sister went to full-time school. They seemed equal options. Everyone was going off to ordinary school and I just thought, I'd like to sing and dance for half the day ... " On the first day, she found herself in acting class, sitting in a circle and being told that a lump of invisible magic clay was being handed round, which she had to transform into something.

"And you watch this thing coming round, and your imagination is going bonkers, and suddenly it gets to you and something happens, you perform, you do something because you have to. And I felt so satisfied afterwards. I've always had to confront my fears." Did she still get fearful? "I'm going to Manchester next week, to the Royal Exchange, to appear in The Illusion by she consulted her right hand where the details were written at the base of her thumb] Pierre Corneille, adapted by Tony Kushner. I'm quite terrified...'

Sawalha has yet to play the kind of fullon explosively "unrestrained" leading lady she is clearly capable of playing. She sweetly confesses to being "a vamp in my own time, my personal time". Her forays into chibland tended, in the past, to coincide with her relationship with Keith Allen, a legendary Groucho habitué. "The last time I was in the Groucho, I woke up

She considered the alternative route her in the morning and my finger was all black life might have taken. "If I'd been a Mus- and blue, and bent back. I couldn't work out what I'd being doing with it. And I'd me to frequent such places. It's funny," she said as a random thought struck her, "I grew up beside Crystal Palace, now I live beside Alexandra Palace, and they're the two highest points in London."

It must be the muezzin in your soul, I said smartly.

"What's that?" A muezzin? A man who climbs to the highest vantage point in the city and calls the faithful to prayer.

"Oh," said Sawalha. It's another adorable trait of hers, not knowing things. I asked her what she thought of Ellen, the scandalous, Oh-my-god-she's-a-lesbian American sitcom. "I've never seen it. What is it?"

It's one of those Channel 4 imports, I said. Like Seinfeld."

"What's *Seinfeld?*"

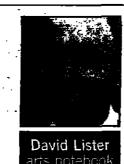
And she means it. She's never seen Cheers or even Friends. Speaking of friends. I asked if she ever hung out with the two actresses with whom she must contest the period-costume territory in the future, Helena Bonham Carter and Kate Winslet. "No, I've always stayed away from other people in my profession. I've met Kate a couple of times. In fact, I lent her my bra once for a photo shoot." Come again? "She had a very see-through top on and I said, 'You going to be photographed like that?' and she said innocently, 'They asked me to.' I said, 'I'd out something on under that if I were you, and she said 'I haven't got anything'. So I lent her my bra. I never saw her again." A thought struck her. "I never saw my bra again, either." And the divine Ms Sawalha goes off into another (surely terminal this time) fusillade of giggles.

avid Helfgott of Shine fame is pianists. His singing along on that Liszt didn't actually write lyrics, has been well chronicled. Less well chronicled is the fact that Helfgott's chronicled is the lact mat frequency, jet lag," he said, "and the effects of manager, Austen Prichard Levy, jet lag," he said, "and the effects of an abrupt climate shift from the brilliantly effective as he clearly is, is not like other managers.

approaches you before his chient's just sorry I missed what sounds like sold-out concert, to give you a written assurance that said client is "not a performing monkey". But sure enough, before the Royal Festival Hall recital by David Helfgott of Shine fame, Mr Prichard Levy gave journalists a printed statement to rebut the implication that audiences are now paying to watch a performing monkey or freak show and nothing more".

There had been a "hiccup" at notoriously unlike other Helfgott's concert in Boston, the manager explained to those of us stage to Liszt, untroubled by the fact who were until that moment blissfully unaware of the Boston concert. hiccups and all. "Helfgott's medication interacted abnormally with height of a scorching Australian After all, it's not often that the summer to the depths of a New Engmanager of a world-famous planist land winter..." Say no more, I'm a concert memory to treasure.

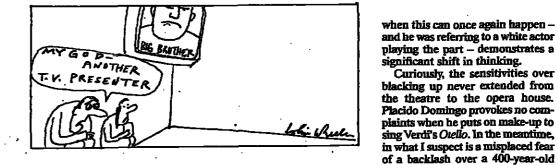
Despite his manager's protesting too much, Helfgott's own enthusiasm remains gloriously, perhaps even sadistically, undimmed. One of the promoters told me, with a weary tone to his voice, that if the audience reception is good, as it usually is, Helfgott gets so carried away that he replays the entire concert backstage afterwards.



The teeth grind for two reasons at information sent out by BBC2 about the third series of Room 101 - "in which Nick Hancock invites a celebrity guest to proffer his or her pet hates". First of all, Room 101 in Orwell's 1984 was not the home of your pet hate but of your greatest fear. More pertinently, the list of "celebrities" includes Jeremy Clarkson (television presenter),

Helfgott's enthusiasm remained gloriously, even sadistically, undimmed

Ulrika Jonsson (television presenter), Chris Tarrant (radio presenter) and, as a variation on the theme, Terry Wogan (television and radio presenter). The BBC's redefinition of celebrity to mean fellow broadcasters, most of whom have coffee in the same canteen as the show's presenter, is my choice for Room 101, be it the room for pet hates, greatest fears or just plain boredom.



On Monday, the Royal Shakespeare Company will launch its new season. So I took the opportunity to ask RSC artistic director Adrian Noble if it might by any remote chance contain Othello, a once highly regarded piece by William Shakespeare, though now decidedly out of fashion. The RSC has not performed it for eight years. Unsurprisingly, it will not feature

in the company's new season, though Noble did say he thought "the time might be near" when the RSC could put it on again.

ing the play because it has not had a black actor it deemed suitable for the role, and it will not countenance the supposed political incorrectness of a white actor blacking up.

The RSC has run scared of stag-

greatest tragedies.

I'm told that Noble, who is dying to direct Othello for the first time, tried to woo film star Morgan Freeman over to play the part, but convincing Hollywood agents that playing the same part for two years for little money was good for the soul That Noble says the time is near proved an uphill struggle.

theatrical convention, we continue

with the absurd anomaly of the RSC

failing to stage one of Shakespeare's

Curiously, the sensitivities over

# arts & books

### Postcard from Cannes By Geoffrey Macnab

or other by an ism," Gary Oldman mumbled into his microphone at the press conference a mark of a healthy new prurifor his directorial debut, Nil By Mouth. The assembled backs in the Palais du Cinéma listened attentively as the cadaverousfaced actor described his personal hattle with alcoholism and how it affected his Viz. In the US, it seems, skidapproach to the film, a bleak, marks aren't anything to be semi-autobiographical South ashamed of. In fact, you London tale. Ironically, even as Oldman was detailing his problems with the bottlie, the police were busy rounding up any drunks who had the temerity to wander near the Croisette. One emaciated old soak on crutches was bundled into a police car Gérard Depardieu is to play and driven away. He tried to Obélix. The image of the fat protest, but the gendarmes French actor, chubby-cheeked

did any of goers tourists.

During the Cannes Fortthe

tus with a zeal that makes Mr has been awarded the plum Clean look lax. Any signs of parts of Getafix the Druid or poverty are instantly erased. Postalautomatix, the doughty The fact that half the buyers postman. and sellers who ply their trade with such bragadoccio are prob-

look rich. That's the secret. Not long after the old drunk was hauled away. Troma Films resident publicity mascot, the Toxic Avenger, was to be seen parading down the Croisette in mask, handing out leaflets. Nobody batted an eyelid.

seem to matter. At least they

A few years ago, an American anthropologist by the name happy at the new arrangeof Hortense Powdermaker fin-ments. They need separate ished her studies of a South Sea press accreditation for each Island tribe and decamped to and every event that is taking Hollywood to analyse how the place in Planet Hollywood, and natives behaved there. Ms even when they've negotiated Powdermaker found LA con- that particular bureaucratic fusing enough, but one imagines that Cannes in May would have left her flummoxed. The festival is a two-week exercise in petty, hieratic rituals. Everyhody has different badges. Your place in the food chain is immediately established by the piece of laminated plastic that hangs from your neck. Confusingly, one shade of white signifies immense importance, while another is worn only by the lowliest minions. A blue press pass is no use for overcrowded press conferences. Pink is better, but still no guarantee of

getting you where you want. At the start of the week, UK journalists caught wind of Oscar-winner Frances McDormand's new project,

don't think there is any-body whose life hasn't been affected in some way been affected in some way America, is playing in the market, this was at first taken as ence in American cinema, Sadly, when the hacks sniffed a little closer, they learnt that McDormand's new movie was nothing to do with a certain incontinent character from should be proud to leave them behind you - they're a sign of prowess behind the wheel

One of the more imposing sights on the Croisette is a huge poster advertising a new film about Asterix the Gaul.

> trademark twirly moustache, stares out insoleritly at passers-by. Somebody called Clavier to act

reveal \$\dagged{\text{ho}}\text{ho}

Planet Hollywood's relentless march across Europe has ably leaking violent streaks of now reached Cannes. The fact red on the balance sheet doesn't that one of this new theme restaurant's co-founders. Bruce Willis, happened to be in town for the world premiere of The Fifth Element (in which he stars) can safely be put down to coincidence. Visitors to Cannes will doubtless his trademark red cape and soon learn to appreciate the Phantom of the Opera-style ready availability of hamburg-mask, handing out leaflets. ers. After all, French cuisine can be a little bland.

Journalists aren't altogether minefield, they're treated like pariahs (or drunks on the Croisette.) Media positioning in media areas is determined by first come basis," reads the publicity, "spots cannot be held or reserved." In other words, feel grateful if you are allowed to stand at the back.

One final note. Tony Curtis may not have made a worthwhile film in approximately four decades, but the bouffanted old actor is now a dab hand at the easel. There's an exhibition of his paintings (which might best be described as pastiches of pastiche Matisses) running in a Cannes gallery throughout the festival. They're bad, but not as bad as

some of the films.

# Bright lights, big pity

When the Bolshoi Ballet first hit America in the late 1950s, tickets were like gold dust. So how come, last year in Las Vegas, they were playing to 6,770 empty seats a night? By Louise Levene

hen the Bolshoi Ballet crept out from under the iron curtain to four the world in the mid-Fifties, the West was totally knocked for six. When they finally hit the United States in 1959, ballet fiends were sleeping rough for days on end outside the Metropolitan Opera House. When the dancers decided to dismiss the official cars and walk from the hotel to the theatre, people threw bouquets as they passed - and well they might. The Bolshoi of the Fifties was a truly awesome assembly of dancers: Galina Ulanova (arguably the greatest ballerina in living memory), Raissa Struchkova, Nicolai Fadeyechev and a chorus of unimagined power and beauty. People didn't just go once out

of curiosity: they went every night.

But would it play Vegas? The company waited nearly 40 years to find out. At the end of 1996, Ed Martin, a born-again balletomane from Waynocka, Oklahoma, persuaded a group of his neighbours to co-invest in a project to of his neighbours to co-invest in a project to bring Moscow's finest to Las Vegas and Los Angeles. This would-be ballet impresario had enjoyed considerable success bringing Russian ice hockey teams to tour America and his interest in ballet was recent but sincere: "I could watch 30 hockey games back-to-back and never be bored but the Bolshoi mesmerised me."

Martin, formerly a Methodist minister, was bowled over by the corps de ballet in Swan Lake "In some ways I felt that I've been in the presence of God." Martin fondly imagined that his enthusiasm would be shared by everybody and that the very word "Bolshoi" was a licence to print money. It wasn't. Ed's tragicomic story is told in the first of Angus Macqueen's two-part docu-mentary series Dancing for Dollars, which chronicles the problems faced by Russian ballet after the collapse of Communism. The second film, "The Kirov in Petersburg", outlines that company's financial and artistic struggles in the context of its glorious heritage. "The Bolshoi in Vegas", shown on Channel 4 tomorrow, is a cautionary tale of corporate greed and individual incompetence, crosscut with archive footage of the successful Fifties tour and sleazy clips of the night-life Las Vegans seem to prefer.

The first lesson Ed Martin had to learn was that ice-hockey players travel considerably lighter than ballet companies. His organisational skills proved unequal to the sheer logistics of trans-porting 245 dancers, musicians and technical staff with all their equipment. Forty-eight hours before curtain-up, an entire container of gear had yet to materialise. In it were the Swan Lake costumes, all the scenery and all the musical instruments. Unknown to Mr Martin it also contained 120 bottles of vodka, 120 bottles of Russian champagne and unthinkable quantities of dried fish (the technical staff were clearly not wasting hard cash on foreign food). US Customs kicked up a fuss but they would hardly have begrudged the scene-shifters a little home cooking had they known what the Bolshoi would face in Nevada.

The Aladdin Theatre had 7000 seats and anyone planning to watch an entrechat six from the balcony would need a telescope. Nice wide stage of course but, er, where was Mr Martin planning to put the orchestra? The Bolshoi, whose dollar-crazed management had for some reason approved the venue, were not impressed: "In 25 years this is a first. Where are our instruments? Where is the orchestra pit? Where are the sets?" A US technician was more relaxed and drew a line across his neck; "I'm hired from here down, they're hired from here up. I don't make those decisions." At first glance, this looks like run-

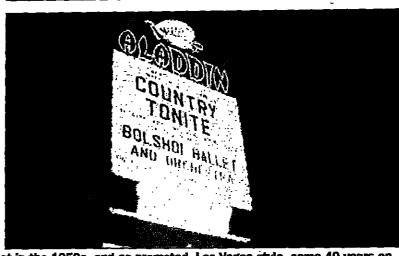
GOOD

A

POOR

DEADU





The Bolshoi Ballet, as they were first presented to the West in the 1950s, and as promoted, Las Vegas-style, some 40 years on

of-the-mill, backstage brinkmanship. We all knew it would be all right on the night and, in one sense, it was: the scenery, tutus and dried fish all turn up 90 minutes before curtain-up but there was still one vital element missing the audience. Ed Martin has sold exactly 44 tickets.

This may have had something to do with Mr Martin's virtual failure to advertise, foolishly imagining he would merely have to hire the hall. After a superhuman PR effort, they managed to swell the first-night house to 230. The low takeup might also be explained by the fact that the front stalls were \$300 each - even the cheap seats were \$85. "We've got a cash crisis," says Martin, finger on the pulse, "and if I don't pay them, the little shits won't perform in LA." In the end, Martin's liquidated company lost \$1.8m and his investors lost their money. The Bolshoi only ever received their original advance, although they did get their fare home, which was a relief, as Las Vegas's slot machine culture clearly revolted them. "Who are these people?" asks one of the Russians. "Who can sit all day pressing a button? That's a culture? That's degradation

Culture and degradation are, of course, two things that the Bolshoi know rather a lot about. Since the collapse of its cosily funded life under Communism, the company has been forced on to the streets, turning tricks for hard cash. Unfortunately, individual members of the Bolshoi have felt very much the same way and various breakaway groups of dancers, notably Yuri Grigorovich's lamentable Stars of the Bolshoi, have gone to the States on hard-currency raids over 'hullshit Bolshoi", as Martin neatly describes it,

Bolshoi to Britain many times in the Sixties and Seventies and Lilian remembers the glory days with some sadness. "It was wonderful. They had their new production of Spartacus during that period at a time when there were stars to dance it but they just don't have the names any more." And whose fault might that be? Step forward Yuri Nikolaievich Grigorovich, artistic director of the Bolshoi from 1964 until power was finally wrested from him in 1995. "He was desperately autocratic and he didn't nurture any new talent. The main problem for the Bolshoi today is the lack of great dancers but even the corps de ballet was never in the same class as the Kirov. The rot set in years ago - that terrible season at the Albert Hall! I couldn't sit through it. It did them irreparable damage."

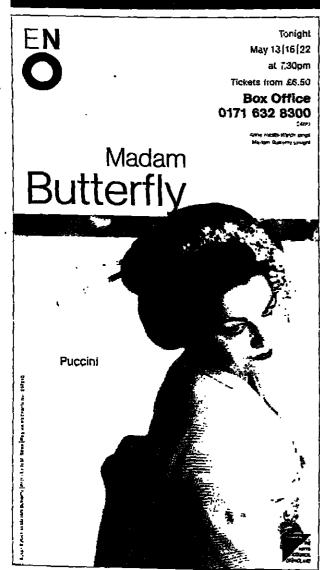
The company enjoyed successful British visits in 1986 and 1989 with unforgettable performances from the young Irek Mukhamedov, the Robert De Niro of dance. Resulting consumer confidence meant that the five-week season at the Albert Hall in 1993, dire though it was, was a virtual sell-out and the pop promoter Derek Block and his new friend Yuri fondly imagined that the British public's appetite for old rope was insatiable. Hence their demented plan to charge punters £55 to watch ballet outdoors in the north of England. By the time the whole sorry enterprise was cancelled Block had only his outdoor Bolshoi. He lost over £1m.

has devalued the company's stock abroad. The to Ed Martin and his chums from Waynocka. final humiliation of Las Vegas may make it Mrs Hochhauser certainly has plenty of advice impossible to regain credibility with impresarios. for budding impresarios. "First of all, no one with Victor and Lilian Hochhauser brought the any idea of the ballet business would put a company into Las Vegas. I mean, we all know that the Bolshoi is not in the best of health at the moment but I can't believe that anyone would succeed in those circumstances - something like Riverdance would be fine. He probably thought \$300 a ticket covered him very nicely but there's no way you can get anyone to pay that unless they've got really big names." So is that it? No more Bolshoi in Britain? "I wouldn't like to exclude the possibility of there being any way back for them but it would have to be done extremely carefully, the right price, the right ballets. You have to judge the type of ballet that the public will want to see but always introduce something new. This July the Kirov are introducing Don Ouixote and Balanchine's Symphony in C but Swan Lake must come whatever, you always do well with Swan Lake. You want to make it interesting but it has to sell well."

Old hands like the Hochhausers know that these days the name on the poster is no longer enough but no one told Ed Martin: "We understood that the word Bolshoi would be enough to sell tickets." He faces financial ruin with the deflated countenance of a man who has just read the small print on his deeds to the Brooklyn Bridge. "I thought it was as sure a thing as you could have. I didn't think it could fail.

'The Bolshoi in Vegas': Channel 4 tomorrow 9pm.

Arts on Monday: May Morn with the Magdalen Choir; plus 50 blues years with Chess records





A film of pleasing surprises, thanks to a good script and a tremendous performance from Andrej Chalimon as the boy. A popular, well-deserved winner of the Oscar for Best Foreign

frowned The FT.

Cert 12, 105 mins, Curzon Mayfair

(0171-369 1720) and on selected release

LuPone gives her considerable all but the production is crass, to put it mildly. If you know about Callas, it will annoy you; if you don't, it will mislead you. Makes other dull dramas about art, such as Old Wicked Songs, look good. How many more bio-play star-turns do we have to put up with?

At the Queen's Theatre, London W1

(0171-494 5040) to 19 July

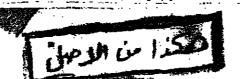
How many of these would stand out from the packed walls of the RA's summer exhibition? In the flowers, the saturated colours do produce a luminosity, but a pointless one. The portraits, framed as a group, coalesce into a blur. Of Hockney, the great draughtsman, there is little sign.

colourist," announced The Guardian. "Why worry if

leatures don't quite add up? With Hockney, it's on to the next, and the next," murmured The Observer.

At the Annely Juda Gallery, 23 Dering St,

London W1 to 19 July



THEATRE The Spanish Tragedy, Hamlet Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon

The special states of the special spec

by using your loaf

The shadow play's the thing. Or is it? Photograph: Geraint Lewis



# More matter, less art

'The Spanish Tragedy' is supposed to be an inferior precursor to 'Hamlet'. But, juxtaposed at Stratford, Kyd out-performs the Bard. By Paul Taylor

histories of drama, Kyd's Spanish Tragedy all too rarely crops up on the stage. We should be grateful to the RSC, then, for making it possible, this season, to see these two revenge dramas side-byside. You'd think that Kyd's play would be at an overwhelming disadvantage in such a pairing exercise. Shakespeare's handling of the features they share – the vengeance-seeking ghost; the isolated, temporising hero who needs to verify the information he's given; the madness, real and feigned; the use of a play-within-a-play to further the revenge scheme - is far subtler and more penetrating. Kyd, who it's thought also wrote the lost, so-called ur-Hamlet, the principle source of its later namesake, is more journeyman than genius.

Yet Michael Boyd's powerful, provocative, sometimes tricksy production of The Spanish Tragedy in The Swan convinces you that this is a work of strong imaginative integrity which deserves to be seen in its own right. Bringing home the acute difficulty of achieving redress through the proper channels, the play focuses on the painfully ironic case of Hieronimo (Peter Wight), the upright magistrate who has to take the law into his own bloody hands against his son's murderers, protected because of their high birth and their exploitation of Hieronimo's increasingly crazed public behaviour.

It's the play's creepy achievement to show all the action from perspective of eternity. The characters think they are used by the gods to fulfil a design of which they are uncon-rhetoric can rule. scious. The Spanish Tragedy begins with the ghost of Don

ften cited as an important precursor of Hamlet in from the underworld, in the company of Revenge, in order to see how his former mistress Bel-imperia (Siobhan Redmond) will avenge his murder. Here Revenge, a hooded, spectral-voiced figure who paces around the theatre, has to prompt Don Andrea, with some impatience, during his opening speeches, as though this trainee Senecan ghost were not quick enough on the uptake for him.

In Boyd's staging, the ghost does not simply sit through the play as a choric spectator but enters into a much more dynamic relationship with the unfolding action, prowling round and through it as an unpalpable but unsettling presence. Not understanding that all the apparent setbacks - eg the slaughtering of his best friend, Horatio (a wonderfully dignified Tristan Sturrock) - are, in fact, necessary stages towards the completion of his revenge, he throws fits of violent, sceneryendangering frustration.

With a bower where the trees are planks dangling like corpses from meat-hooks and a curtained inner-stage where the characters sit in a row like actors waiting in some purgatorial ante-room to be assigned a part, Tom Piper's design heightens the sense of a world moving to a pre-ordained end. The performances are, for the most part, fine. Peter Wight offers an intriguing portrait of Hieronimo as a tubby, inefof his court can have been like before the strain of the bereave-

Andrea (Patrice Naiambana) who has been allowed to return suggests that the whole nightmare is about to be replayed, this in rep. Booking: 01789 295623

time, with Horatio as Revenge. This idea of endless brutal recycling causes an undeniable shudder, but it's in contradiction of the play Kyd had wrote. Even at its most questionable, the production never left me cold, though, which I'm afraid is what happened during long stretches of Matthew Warchus's main-stage account of Hamlet, starring a likeable but unsearching Alex Jennings.

As an antidote to Kenneth Branagh's dire, interminably inclusive movie, the production may win friends, though the cuts and restructurings here do not, I feel, result in an overall dramatic gain. Skipping the opening scene on the battle-ments, the production begins with Jennings tipping out a jar of ashes while, projected behind him, there's sentimental blackand-white movie footage of Hamlet as a little boy playing with his father and some dogs. In voice-over, we hear Claudius delivering a public speech, the walls then split open and we are at a loud palace party where, in continuous action and often not very probably, much of the early business of the play takes place.

Warchus has cut Fortinbras and that whole political aspect of the piece, so, at the end, it's back to that home-movie footage, with Horatio in voice-over, describing the events of the drama: "... carnal, bloody and unnatural acts, / Of accidental judgments, casual slaughters" etc. When this speech fectual nervous wreck. If it makes you wonder what the state is delivered to Fortinbras, it becomes a comment on the limited perception of Hamlet's rival - all he'd be able to underon their own behalf: in fact, we can see that they are being prising degree of naturalness and humanity to a role where to nobody, as here, it seems - like the production - to be a rhetoric can rule.

case of the play selling itself short.

The production goes too far at points. At the close, Boyd

'Hamlet', RSC Stratford in rep; The Spanish Tragedy', RSC Swan

### Ecstasy of motion

DANCE NDT2 Peacock Theatre, London

' here was a man begging outside the Peacock Theatre on Thursday night; he wanted a ticket for NDT2 whose three London dates had completely sold out.

The five works on offer

this week were, on the whole, a more satisfying selection than the programme they brought to Sadler's Wells in 1995. The evening opened with Kylian's Songs of a Wayfarer, inspired by the Mahler song-cycle. Béjart used this music to represent the journey through life but Kylian chooses instead to chart the passage of human relationships. The choreography is packed with unexpected lifts and supported leaps and it is exquisitely danced. Lucila Alves in the opening pas de deux has arms that undulate like a flame, with a speed and a soft brilliance that seem to leave a trace in the air behind her.

The second work is Solo, a fizzy six-minute dance by Hans Van Manen for three boys set to Bach's Violin Suite No 1 in D. Van Manen has fun juxtaposing funky shrugs and struts with more classical virtuosity but, by confining the wit to movements of the body rather than the face, he manages to tickle the audience without vulgarising the light humour. He is helped here by well-judged performances from Vaclav Kunes, Patrick Marin and

Fabrice Mazliah. Sammanfall, by former Royal Swedish Ballet soloist Johan Inger, is a piece for seven dancers and occurs on a set dominated by a large green eyeball which plays pee-po through a hole in the is obviously supposed to Mean Something. The programme note says something about a sense of

isolation, and interval gossip suggests it's something about a broken relationship lived out in the public gaze, but all it really means is that the audience giggles quite a bit each time the eye rolls comically from side to side. Duets and trios flow into one another in dances that are constructed like an elaborate game in which each movement must slot into the next without besitation or deviation.

Repetition is allowed. Hans Van Manen takes the helm for the penultimate piece, a moving and inventive duet for Shirley Esseboom and Vaclay Kunes. The finale is Skew Whiff by the British NDT dancer Paul Lightfoot, in which three men and four women in an ill-advised shade of German mustard leap, twitch and do silly walks to Rossini's overture to The Thieving Magpie, brought to life by dancers who dash off double tours en l'air almost faster than the eye can catch.

Although a few "older" dancers have been kept on until a place becomes vacant for them in the main outfit, the bulk of NDT2's dancers are between 17 and 22 years old. This means that everything the company does is characterised by the gorgeous mercurial fluency of young bodies in an ecstasy of motion who lend the choreography a freshness and radiance it doesn't always possess.

It is this, not the material,

that makes people beg for Tonight at Peacock Theatre, London WC2 (0171-314 8800); Mon-Wed, Theatre Royal Brighton (01273 328488); then touring to Canterbury, Sheffield, High Wycombe and Blackpool

Louise Levene

### An evening of Mutter magic

hen Piers Hellawell CLASSICAL Do Not Disturb showed us "Ways Barbican Hall Joseph through Bracken" on Wednesday night, at the Barbican, we could virtually feel peat underfoot, sense clouds scatter on the heels of a breeze. It was the first section of Do Not Disturb, an LSO commission where Thomas A Clark's haiku-like poetry was tossed in youthful antiphony between sections of the Finchlev Children's Music Group. Sir Colin Davis conducted and the performance certainly conveyed feelings of "mountain landscape" and "the privacy of solitude" (I quote the composer's own notes). Hellawell's spacious orchestral canvas conjures illusions of depth and height, with the excitable pecking of wood-blocks, an offstage trumpet, strings veering off in all directions and a pulsing harmonic pungency redolent of Martinu, Britten, even Steve Reich. Orchestral tex-

surreality (Berg's ghost hovers somewhere among the opening measures) and the overall effect is of a rugged wonderland tailor-made for the jaded victims of city life. I loved it.

Do Not Disturb was preceded by a yawningly legate account of the National Anthem (just one verse), given in honour of the Royal guest, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew. Thereafter, once released from vate world, Davis and the orchestra were joined by a chic Anne-Sophie Mutter for a luxuriant saunter through Beethoven's Violin Concerto.

genial, pliantly phrased opening tutti (the rising woodwind motive was subtly accelerated) before Mutter took over with a sugar-coated tone; immaculate refreshingly brisk, the second trills, well-oiled slides and a cadenza full of fun and the tures shimmer with startling seamless delivery of the solo overall effect, a humbling jour-

an almost intimidating sophistication. Davis provided a velvety backdrop, but when it came to Fritz Kreisler's inspirational cadenza, Mutter cast off her glad rags (metaphorically, of course) to embark on

That miraculous passage where the first movement's two principal themes converge inate - was vividly differenti-Heliawell's action-packed pri- ated, and when the cadenza drew to a close and the "main tune" sat waiting in the wings, Mutter coaxed a dark, trancelike tone for its return. She oven's Violin Concerto. achieved parallel wonders in Davis set the scene with a the Larghetto, veiling her sound perceptibly for the song-like central section, then welling with emotion for the return of the first idea. The finale was

one of the most daring and orig-inal re-creations I've ever heard.

line. She played as she looked, ney from lofty aloofness to regally, glamorously and with compelling spontaneity.

The concert concluded with a broadly stated account of Brahms's Fourth Symphony. Davis launched into the opening motive without fuss or exaggeration, but come the first big string tune (about a minute and a half in and marked merely forte), and he indulged the sort of lavish rubato that characterised the rest of the performance. The - each taking its turn to dom- · Andante featured some lustrous string-playing, the heavyweight Scherzo impressive horns and the finale, a comprehensive grasp of musical structure: but, for me, Davis's lingering and lan-guishing spilled into overkill. It was a heartfelt production, no doubt about that, but too wellpadded for a symphony that ends in catastrophe. Do Not Disturb' repeated 21, 22 May: Booking: 0171-638 8891

Rob Cowan

### Twangs for the memory

Here was a man playing the

electric guitar as though it had

hen Hank Marvin POP Hank Marvin produces sounds Fairfield Halls, Croydon from his red electric guitar he has a look of pleasant surprise on his face as if he's never heard the tune before. Out of the matching red amplifiers come the celestial opening notes of "Won-derful Land" and Hank smiles at the audience with mild build up my shoulder mus-astonishment. Is that really cles." There were lots of jokes astonishment. Is that really

me playing that? A tom-tom drum thuds in the distance and he suddenly finds himself playing "Apache". He's been performing this one for 37 years, yet he can still make it seem like a new composition. The master of the Stratocaster was back in Croydon, still guarding the secret of how he makes those noises so pure and beautiful. When Hank Marvin Any More" were the latest played "Atlantis" it really did sound like he was at the bottom of the ocean. "Man of , honours list for pop music. In Mystery" still sent shivers up

the spine.

just been invented. He only gave us one clue about how he did it. "This one's got harder strings," he explained during a guitar change. "I'm trying to like that. Jokes about Croydon. Jokes about Cliff. ("Emily Brontë had such foresight.") Hank Marvin was once asked by Buddy Holly's father for Cliff Richard's autograph. Not sure if this one was a joke or not, but it was a good introduction to his

set of Holly covers. "That'li be the Day", "Oh Boy" and "It Doesn't Matter songs to get the Hank Marvin Treatment, which is a sort of this category we also got "Cavatina" and "Don't Cry

tals. Hank and his backing teenager. Even his red guitar band were pretty good at the looks brand new. vocal harmonies too, and they knocked out a fine country version of Elvis Presley's "Mystery Train".

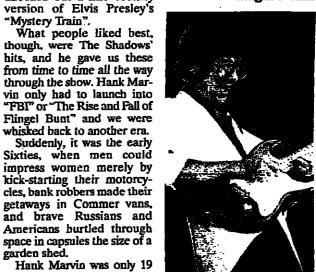
What people liked best, though, were The Shadows' hits, and he gave us these from time to time all the way through the show. Hank Marvin only had to launch into "FBI" or "The Rise and Fall of Flingel Bunt" and we were whisked back to another era. Suddenly, it was the early Sixties, when men could impress women merely by kick-starting their motorcycies, bank robbers made their getaways in Commer vans, and brave Russians and Americans burtled through

Hank Marvin was only 19 when he recorded "Apache".

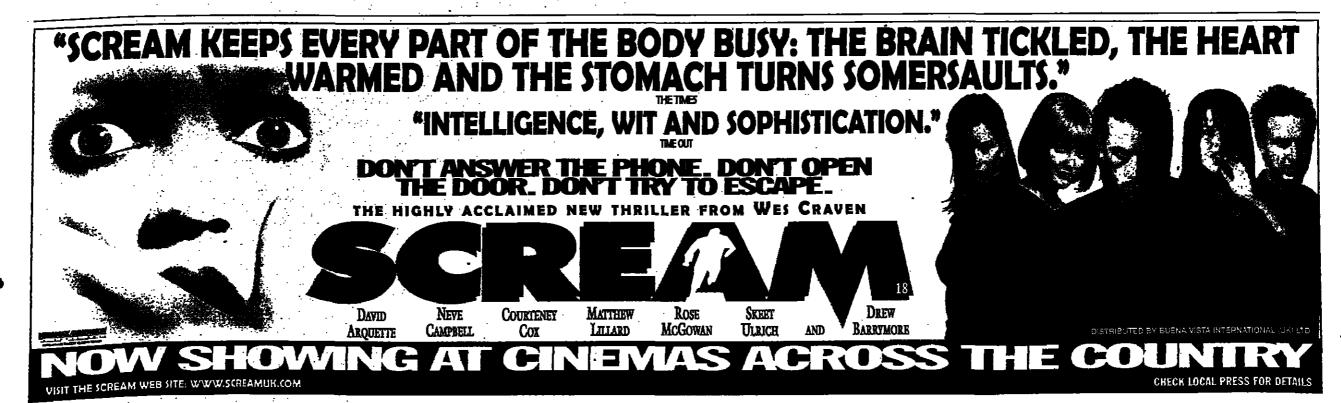
garden shed.

for Me Argentina", but it how old he must be now, but wasn't all guitar instrumenhe's still rockin' like a

Magnus Mills



You can work out for yourself 'How did I do that?'



# Spoilt, slothful sprinter

John Walsh celebrates the idle idol who entranced two generations

Cyril Connolly: a life by Jeremy Lewis, Cape, £25

do not like that smartyboots Connolly," Virginia Woolf used to say. The most sophisticated socioliterary analyst of her day later confided in her Diary the awfulness of having to dine with "baboon Connolly and his gollywog slut wife". Jeremy Lewis's sparkling biography is full of such judgements, and of peevish testimonies to his subject's social shortcomings. "Cyril is not perhaps the ideal guest," wrote Harold Nicolson to Vita Sackville-West, "He is terribly untidy in an irritating way. He leaves dirty handkerchiefs in the chairs and fountain pens (my fountain pens) open in books. Moreover it is rather a bore having a person who has nothing of his own not a cigarette or a stamp ...

What he did have only served to irritate people further - his greed. his sulkiness, his conceit, his endless mickey-taking, his pet lemurs, his ingratitude for favours, his pretentiousness, his lechery, his occasional larceny (he once filched three avocado pears from Somerset Maugham's garden at Cap Ferrat), his political naïvety. All these unlovely traits, minutely charted by victims and ex-friends, are now faithfully verified by Jeremy Lewis, until one is forced to ask, with Anthony Powell, "What, in short, was the point of Connolly? Why did people put up with moroseness, gloom, open hostility? ... He was one of those individuals ... who seem to have been sent into the

world to be talked about". Or written about. This is t ond major biography of the great critic to be published in two years, following Clive Fisher's Cyril Connolly: A Nostalgic Life in 1995, which itself followed Michael Shelden's Friends of Promise, a lively account of the Horizon years, and David Pryce-Jones's Memoir that accompanied the publication of Connolly's War Journal.

The new volume is the first to have been written with the blessing of Cyril's widow, Deirdre, who from prospective life-writers and

refused to release her husband's voluminous correspondence, diaries and self-pitying belles-lettres.

But what is the point of Connolly? There has been no convincing reassessment of his stature as a writer - at least not enough to justify reprinting the essays in Con-demned Playgrounds or Ideas and Places or The Evening Colonnade or his only novel The Rock Pool. His study of literary style and literary frustration, Enemies of Promise, remains in print, but not that smug, hedonist's companion, The Unquiet Grave, Jeremy Lewis does not make fancy claims for Connolly's "great-ness". He calls him "In literary terms ... a sprinter rather than a marathon runner" and "a miniaturist of the human heart", whose genius lay in the sparks and shards that flew off from his journalism, a writer in a constant state of almostbrilliance, subverted by a thousand retarding influences, from war and women to jealousy and ennui.

What is important about him, however, when all the explanations about failure and writer's block have ceased, is a life that spans and sometimes embodies 20th-century literature. Connolly was at the snobbish St Cyprian's school with Beaton and Orwell; at Eton, he turned from being a grubby, inkstained, miserable weed to a lovelorn romantic and precociously melancholic ironist, falling in love with Noel Blakiston and Bobby Longden and the waxed silk hats of the "Pop" élite. At Oxford, by comparison, he mostly travelled in pursuit of a new horizon to compensate for the paradise he'd left her near him. Then he met Jean behind. His literary apprenticeship was as secretary and factorum to Logan Pearsall Smith, the fusty American epigrammatist who used to laugh aloud at the mere thought of Cyril's letters and bankrolled his

advised indulgence. Connolly spent most of his 20s and 30s in a head-spinning round of travels across the Mediterranean, of lunches, spongings, rejected all previous overtures seductions and hotels, renting encounters with women, little

debts and travels with fond, if ill-



Jebb, travelling with Longden or Quennell, encountering Christopher Sykes or Bob Boothby en route to stay with Lees-Milne or Nicolson ... the names recur and intertwine like motifs in a German opera. What allays the tedium is the gradual, Kraken-like rising to the surface of Connolly's heterosexual satyriasis. Self-confessedly "emotionally homosexual" until then, he investigated the stews of Limehouse and Whitechapel and, more decorously, fell in love with Racy Fisher, daughter of Admiral William Fisher, who refused to let Bakewell in Paris (introduced by the mother of her lesbian lover) and a new Connolly emerged - dedicated only to lotus-eating excess, to luxury food, drink and cigars, to living for pleasure at other people's expense, for dispersing his talent in journalism, talk, sex and soft fruit.

As the century rolls by, Connolly's life falls into an entertaining but predictable succession of bullying and/or grief-stricken apartments from Betjeman or snatches of exquisitely judged both Pearsall Smith and Desmond

ever-more ex-cathedra tone to his critical writings and much self-exculpatory examination of his conscience. Some of this makes for revealing reading, such as his itemised criticisms of his girlfriend Diana. demanding inter alia that 'when being unfaithful, go outside your spouse's circle of friends" ("Why should I? You don't," was her maralternately rancid and infantile.

What makes this biography special is Jeremy Lewis's stylish and funny narrative. Fans of Lewis's memoirs and biography reviews will know of his fascination for the revealing ad hominem detail, and this book is crammed with them: Connolly's father spending after-noons at the Windmill Theatre "appraising and re-appraising the same row of nearly naked chorus girls"; the "disconcerting habit inherited from Bloomsbury" by

descriptions of places and people, an McCarthy "of putting the telephone down at the end of a conversation without saying 'goodbye". And Lewis supplements an already anecdote-crammed narrative with the most entertaining footnotes seen in hard covers since The Third Policeman. He clearly admires Connolly's writing, editing skill, broad human sympathies and frequent kindnesses. If he cannot ginal reply). The three-hander affair help portraying him as something with Barbara Skelton and George of a monster - or as the vexed. Weidenfeld is played for laughs but spoilt and capricious baby which he the mood darkens in the closing most often resembled - he does so chapters, as Connolly's self-pity turns with an indulgent chuckle. The result is a study of the literary spirit and the literary century which is unflaggingly entertaining, evokes a lost world of grand houses and unemployable geniuses, and gives you Connolly, warts, lemurs, avocados, debts, absurdities and all. By the end, despite all the snipings from Virginia Woolf and the rest of the anti-Connolly club, you feel you understand why Philip Larkin should have said, on being asked if he'd like to meet him. "It was like being asked if you wanted to meet

Matthew Arnold".

### On his best behaviour

D J Taylor visits The Chantry, again

Journals, 1990-1992 by Anthony Powell, Heinemann, £20

two ways of achieving lasting lit-erary celebrity in England. One was to die young and tragically leaving tantalising shards of promise; the other was to live to a gargantuan old age having written a shelf of books to be rediscovered in

Judging by the violently mixed reaction to his recent work - two volumes of assorted reviews and the first two instalments of these journals - Anthony Powell is rapidly disproving the second strand of this adage. Worse, critical sniping at late-period trifles has started to encroach on his greatest achieve-ment, the soon-to-be-televised 12volume novel sequence A Dance To The Music Of Time. Praised to the skies on completion in 1975, it is now found to be snobbish, recondite and a threnody for a dead

Writers have their ups and

downs, and Powell can take comfort from the example Anthony Trollope, whose reputation has undergone a bewildering switchback ride over the past 100 years. At the same time it cannot be gratifying to learn, at the ripe age of 91, that the masterpieces of one's maturity are now seen in some

quarters as impenetrable exercises in obscurantism. You sympathise all the more in that so much criticism of Powell's work is fundamentally non-literary,

if not simply obtuse. Turning over the Journals and noting their mania for lineage, connection and social correctness, many a reviewer diagnosed simple snobbery. One might retort that if take an interest in this kind of apparatus, then what can be take an

Doubtless many of these stric- wake of a serious operation, the tures will be pushed to the surface consolations of old age seem less again by Journals 1990-1992, tangible. "I sit or lie with a rug another hefty report on late-period life at The Chantry (Nr Frome, Somerset), the Powells' West Country hideaway. Outwardly not much has changed since the earlier volumes. Friends come to lunch: the

Powells' hospitality is returned.
Other friends die ("XYZ obit" is familiar entry). The cat depopulates the local fauna, and Lady Violet nips up to London for a Pakbrood over Shakespeare in the study and indulge in one of his ing improvements to great works of world literature.

It's a critical commonplace to t used to be said that there were talk of Powell's habitual reserve. The near-simultaneous deaths (recorded in volume two) of his cat Trelawney and an old friend who was the joint dedicatee of a novel are worth considering in this respect, as most of the emotion looks to be lavished on the cat. For all this, it seems clear that as he sinks deeper into old age Powell has

ceased to care about giving offence.
The polite balancing acts of his memoirs dissolve into wounding judgments of contemporaries (Harold Acton: "an unfortunate influence on the Oxford of his generation"; Evelyn Waugh: "interesting how little people know them-selves"; Henry Green: "really rather a shit"). The only surprise is the elaborate smokescreen raised above the famous row with Auberon Waugh in 1990 (Waugh fils had liberally besmirched Powell's reputation in a paper for which Powell reviews), adumbrated only

in an innocuous having resigned from the Tele-

graph". Elsewhere the tone settles itself into the kind of specialised, oldworld crossness of which Powell is perhaps our greatest living exponent, a litany of reproach that takes in everything from feeble books to journalists who

address him by his Christian name and unpunctual photographers, the Independent's own Herbie Knott included.

Much of what follows is irresistibly funny - a telephone call from Lord Denning, who "wafted waves of genial egotism down the line in accents of a stage peasant, or a televisual sighting of John a writer whose work grows out of Major, described as "tall, good figsocial codes and distinctions can't ure, dignified movement, distinctly aristocratic one would have

By the end, powers waning in the round me like a character in the background of a Russian novel, the old prince."

All this comes interspersed with the usual wistful glances into the lost world of youth. A visitor in the previous volume of journals was described as "tall, thin, rather little-girl voice that made her seem like girls in the past one used to know, not of today". Powell might enham clambake leaving AP to not be "of today" himself, but that doesn't make his life any less beguiling, or his achievement any favourite parlour games - suggest- less important.



week books

hen a Fabergé show packed the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1977, its director Roy Strong noted "the three ingredients essential to any successful exhibition: death, sex and jewels". In his Diaries 1967-1987 (Weidenfeld, £20), the first Curator Superstar makes an epic exhibition of himself - but only scores on two counts. Jewels, he's got em. Duchesses and divas flash their rocks as Sir Roy minutes posh soirées - frock by frock, tiara by tiara - with the finical relish learns from his old mentor. Cecil Beaton. As for death, one arts worthy after another bows out as the "self-made grammar-school boy from nowhere" (ie a loveless home in Edmonton) buries friend and foe. Sex, however, stalks mostly in the wings - except when Princess Margaret and Roddy Llewellyn lurch into view.

The papers have already gutted this vain and catty tome for its royal gossip. from the trashing of Di ("Eliza Doolittle at the Embassy ball") to the slighting of Fergie ("no beauty at all, but good Sloane Street features with large eyes"). Elsewhere, Labour politicians who dare to remind the caped civil servant just who pays for his fab gear appear as "northcountry louts" or ignorant numbskulls. So this top-flight bitch would do well to mind his own Ps and Qs. No works exist by a painter named



Boyd Tonkin

"Lucien" Freud. The soloist in Swan Lake does not dance unaccented "foucites". And "embroiderie anglaise" has got tangled up mid-Channel.

Name-dropping and pointscoring at full tilt, the Diaries drag Max Beerbohm chatter into the age of David Frost. Yet for all his snooty foibles. Sir Roy's flair as a scholarshowman appealed to a much broader public than his detractors ever could. Strong stuck firmly to a publicservice ethic and a mission to explain. He never ran an "ace caff". When Sir Terence Conran and his business bullies took charge as the 1980s V&A went "up the Thatcherite alley", Strong

cared even less for them than for union jobsworths. As a first-class primer on arts-world skullduggery, the Diaries deserve a permanent home on Chris Smith's new desk at National Heritage. Underneath the sniping and griping, they recount a 20year battle to bring style and splendour to state culture without mimicking market forces. Strong sought to paint his corner of the public sector gold instead of grey And that quixotic ideal looks just as valid now as when the man in "the Regency jacket and the ruffled shirt stepped into the media limelight of Harold Wilson's high noon.

### Looking for a message in the bottle John Harvey investigates the sad life of crime fiction's greatest stylist

Raymond Chandler: a biography by Tom Hiney, Chatto, £16.99

ean back in your seat on the 24 bus, ask your fellow passengers to name three writers of detective fiction, and chances are Raymond Chandler will be among them. Talk shop with a bunch of crime writers and the same name comes up as someone to admire and enjoy, even steal from now and then. For a man who scarcely set pen to paper seriously until he was in his fifties and who completed only seven novels, Chandler's reputation is enviable

and extraordinary. And deserved? Torn Hiney's biography does what any literary biography should do. It sends you back to the work. Re-reading The Big Sleep and The Long Goodbye, especially, there seems little doubt that with these two books Chandler came close to perfection within his chosen form - a case in the life of an urban private eye.

Born in Chicago in 1888, Chandler moved with his mother to England and was educated at Dulwich College. He served with the Gordon Highlanders during the First World War and, re-settled in the US and became a successful Los Angeles oil executive into his mid-forties. Out of work and attracted by the idea of earning his living as a writer, he signed up for an evening class -"Short Story Writing 52AB" - and began selling fiction to Black Mask magazine. His first novel, The Big Sleep, was published in 1939.

Chandler built on the hard-hitting

fiction of Dashiell Hammett and

James M Cain, which merged social

realism and the quick-fire sex and vio-

lence of pulp magazines. It married

pin-point observation and smart-alec humour with a self-conscious use of rhythmic sentence structure and elaborate metaphor. What he added was a degree of sentimentality which Hiney shows us was totally in accord with Chandler's character. And in Philip Marlowe, his LA detective, those contradictory elements of toughness and a finer sensibility are held nicely in balance. In spite of Chandler's reputation.

it is probably through Humphrey Bogart's portrayal in Hawks's The Big Sleep that we know Marlowe best. As the current Murder Ink season at the National Film Theatre shows, Chandler was a key figure in crime cinema as source and screenwriter. As Hiney makes clear, the screenplay he co-wrote with Billy Wilder for *Double* Indemnity was the one which broke the over-censorious grip of the Hollywood Production Code.

To Chandler's mind, Bogart was a near-perfect embodiment of his hero, not least through his understanding of what it was to get through the day on a bottle of bourbon and precious little solid food. Like creation, like creator, as Hiney shows: the central fact of Chandler's life was his drinking.

The alcoholic son of an alcoholic father, he followed all too earnestly down that genetic path although, unlike his father, he stuck fast to his mother rather than desert her. In fact. he did it twice. Having taken responsibility for his natural mother. sick with cancer, and supported her from his early twenties until her death some dozen years later, he promptly married Cissy, a woman 20 years his



senior. In turn, he nursed her through a slow decline until her death aged 84.

There is a uneasy sense of Chandler's sexuality that slides between the lines of Hiney's book without being precisely pinned down. We learn that he had two brief affairs during his marriage, but discover little of them or the women concerned. His preference was to worship at a distance, as if over-fastidious of the act itself. There are frequent instances of him condemning his contemporaries for what he saw as the sexual excesses of their novels.

encounters unbridled female sexuality, his reaction takes misogyny to the point of hysteria. In life, it was only after Cissie's death, and shielded by his own impotence, that he took on the role of would-be seducer.

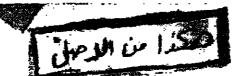
Indeed, one of Hiney's biggest problems here is that Chandler's life is only extraordinary in its comparative dullness. For much of the time he shunned company, preferring to write copious letters - acute, funny and thankfully liberally used here. Only towards the end did he emerge into a needy gregariousness, but by When, in Chandler's work, Marlowe then he was boorish and pathetic, the only hope to footnote that.

Raymond Chandler: getting through the day on a bottle of bourbon and precious little solid food

sort of drunk you hope will pass you by. Hiney fleshes out the latter years more fully than Frank McShane's 1976 biography, and his portrait of a suicidal individual in need of, and receiving, psychiatric care is acute. But his tendency to blur the distinction between Chandler himself and his fictional voice is ingenuous. Commenting, for instance, on his claim that by the 1920s Chandler was fighting shy of sensible decisions, Hiney quotes a lively passage denouncing the virtues of common sense. Something from a letter? Only by turning to the back of the book do we find this is not Chandler's voice, nor even fiction written at the time, but an extract from the 1957 Playback

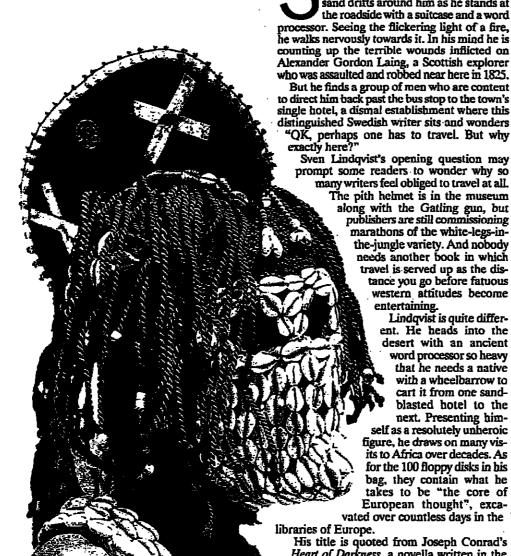
What we learn of Chandler's methodology is interesting - the sep-arate notebooks in which he noted one-liners, slang expressions, names of potential characters, clothes; his use of small sheets of paper, each holding no more than 15 lines, forcing him to find "a bit of magic" for each page. And it is fascinating to read his description of the fighting in the First World War trenches, written 20 years before his first novel: "On the firing step the Number One of the gun crew was standing to with half of his body silhouetted above the parapet, motionless against the glare of the light except that his hand was playing scales on the butt of his gun."

In the specificity and the surprise of that final image, the genesis of Chan-dler's later style is to be found. Just as it is in the best of the fiction that we find his glory - and any biography can



Can European travellers bring something new out of Africa? Patrick Wright looks for the colonial roots of genocide while (below) Duncan Fallowell tracks a vanishing poet

# Apocalypse here and now



ere a contraction

ometime after nightfall, the author steps off a bus in the very deadest stretch of the Algerian Sahara, Red sand drifts around him as he stands at the roadside with a suitcase and a word processor. Seeing the flickering light of a fire, he walks nervously towards it. In his mind he is counting up the terrible wounds inflicted on Alexander Gordon Laing, a Scottish explorer who was assaulted and robbed near here in 1825.

But he finds a group of men who are content to direct him back past the bus stop to the town's single hotel, a dismal establishment where this distinguished Swedish writer sits and wonders "QK, perhaps one has to travel. But why

> many writers feel obliged to travel at all. The pith helmet is in the museum along with the Gatling gun, but publishers are still commissioning marathons of the white-legs-inthe-jungle variety. And nobody needs another book in which travel is served up as the distance you go before fatuous

> > Lindqvist is quite different. He heads into the desert with an ancient word processor so heavy that he needs a native with a wheelbarrow to cart it from one sandblasted hotel to the

next. Presenting himself as a resolutely unheroic figure, he draws on many visits to Africa over decades. As for the 100 floppy disks in his bag, they contain what he takes to be "the core of European thought", excavated over countless days in the

His title is quoted from Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, a novella written in the last years of the 19th century, which tells of a voyage upriver into the African continent in

search Kurtz, who ished into the savagery colonialism. Lindqvist first read this book as a young man just after the Sec-

'Exterminate all the Brutes' by Sven Lindqvist, Granta, £8.99

appeared to foreshadow the Nazi holocaust.
The connection between 19th-century imperialism and 20th-century fascism remains his preoccupation as he travels through the parched emptiness of the desert: noting tiny incidents on the sites of past atrocities; collecting the vivid dreams that still disturb the passing European, and pressing them between his pages, rather as if they were exotic desert flowers.

Conrad's story was written at the height of British imperialism, and Lindqvist establishes it as a thoroughgoing condemnation of colonial violence. He traces Conrad's interest in the imperial expeditions of that time: Stanley's triumphant return in 1889 from a three-year expedition, actually a farcical and disastrous affair, to rescue Emin Pasha from "dervishes" in Sudan. He reviews the necessary technological innovations from Mr Dunlop's invention of the bicycle inner tube, which helped to trigger. demand for rubber, to the weapons that made safe slaughter possible - gunboats, rifles and the "dum-dum" bullets used for stopping "savages" but banned from European wars.

Some elements of Conrad's story were lifted straight from outrageous reality. There really was a man, Captain Rom, who decorated the gardens of his house at Stanley Falls with the severed heads of 21 Africans killed during a punitive missions. But others are more philosophical, like the idea of extinction, which Lindovist traces back to Cuvier, who pointed in the 18th century to the extinction of prehistoric animals. This was elaborated in 1850 by Robert Knox, a race theorist who turned extermination into a fact of nature, arguing that "the dark races" were incapable of becoming civilised, and must instead "go under" to the Saxons.

Charles Darwin loathed the brutality he saw on his travels, including the systematic extermination of Indians in the Argentine. But the great evolutionist still foresaw a time when the 'savage races" would be exterminated by their civilised superiors. From then on, "it became accepted to shrug your shoulders at genocide".

Having exposed the ideas that justified European imperialism, and the extinction of native peoples, Lindqvist argues that the Nazi holocaust had its roots in 19th-century European thought. Hitler grew up with the belief that imperialism was "biologically necessary", and entailed the "destruction of the lower races". He was convinced of the need for "living space".

The "Lebensraum" idea was first promoted by the German zoologist and geographer Friedrich Ratzel, who in 1891 insisted that races of "inferior culture" died out because Europeans destroyed them in order to take their ond World War, when it land. Ratzel turned territorial expansion into

the primary sign of a race's vitality. He also pressed for the creation of a German empire. But it was not until 1904 that Germany got round to exterminating the Herero of South West Africa, and there was little distant Lebensraum left to conquer. So the logic of extermination was brought home to Europe. Ratzel included Jews and gypsies with aboriginal peo-ple on the list of "inferior" races, fit only to be displaced. He also saw that the struggle for living space did not always have to take place far from Europe. Hitler was given a copy of Ratzel's work in 1924 when he was in prison writing Mein Kampf, in which he imagined Britain and Germany dividing up the world,

with Germany expanding eastward. Such is Lindqvist's main argument, but it would be quite wrong to suggest that he has written a mere tract about ideas. The book is presented as a sequence of 169 short and beautifully written passages in which his story is mixed with autobiographical reflection. In one section the brutality of colonialism may be traced through contemporary documents, while in the next it may be dreamed or distantly implied in Lindqvist's recollections of being beaten as a child - something that Swedish parents were

allowed to do "right up until 1966". These subjective episodes are not always entirely successful, and editors have tried to persuade Lindqvist to reduce them. Since this book was actually written as the third volume in a trilogy, these passages would be more resonant for readers familiar with the first two (which are not available in English). But Lindqvist has kept this more personal material for good reasons. It allows him to avoid the omniscient, and incipiently imperialist, "I" of conventional travelwriting. It also enables him to suggest that something of imperialism lives on close to the foundation of European self-understanding - fuelling the fascism of Le Pen or the racists who attack immigrant hostels in Germany, Sweden and elsewhere.

A few academics may mutter that this is not a proper history book, and deplore the absence of this year's mandatory theorists from its footnotes. But Lindqvist deserves far better than that. He has written an engaged and engaging book that the general reader can think along with. Were the universities ever to tire of their clotted labyrinths of "theory", they would hail it as exemplary for its lucidity. As for travel, with Lindqvist it has absolutely nothing to do with bouncing impressions off a world you can't be bothered to understand. Instead, it is a way of getting to the root of things, of sticking with intractable realities long after others have moved on, of seeing the picture frame as well as the black man who, at an opportune moment, happens to be carrying it through the dusty square outside the hotel window.

#### Independent choice: American crime writing

by Nick Kimberley

or decades American writers have been the most adept at exploiting crime fiction in all its forms, but the evidence here suggests that those forms have become so encrusted with decorative excrescences that they no longer function. Some might take as proof of that malfunction a collection of essays such as Criminal Proceedings: the contemporary American crime novel, edited by Peter Messent (Pluto, £13.99). It's not that popular literature is beneath critical rigour, but

does rigour need to have such a dead hand?
Or perhaps the cultural-studies essay itself is generic, bound by rules none may break. One such is that your title must come in two sections; first the punchline; then the apologetic explanation. You know the form: Law Crimes: The Legal Fictions of John Grisham and Scott Turow": "Policing the Margins: Barbara Wilson's Gaudi Afternoon

and Troubles in Transylvania", and so on.
In his introduction, Messent suggests that the private eye novel no longer works as "far as the representation of criminal activity and its containment goes". I'd say that, even for Chandler, "containment" was not on the agenda; but too many recent US crime novels seem content with the familiar comforts of the first person "I" of the private eye. What has changed is the form that eye takes: "he" may be a she, and she may be a skip tracer. So it is with Janet Evanovich's Three to Get Deadly (Hamish Hamilton, £13.99). Stephanie Plum calls herself a "bounty hunter" but is

otherwise a

Pick of the week Kill Kill Faster Faster by

traditional private eye, working outside the system to bring justice to downtrodden.

No problem there, but Evanovich sees the private eye as a lifestyle option. What matters is that Plum drives the wrong (read: right) kind of car, eats the wrong (read: right) kind of food, lives in the wrong (read: right) town and is

the wrong (read: right) gender. Such tiny inversions change nothing. Plum is a standard-issue saint with a gun, though not as outmoded as the detective in Lawrence Block's The Burglar in the Library (No Exit Press, £16.99) - the eighth of Block's novels to feature Bernie Rhodenbarr, bookseller, burglar and solver of mysteries. Block is a witty writer, aware of the games he plays with convention, but here they become mannered. He resuscitates the locked room mystery, and even places his murders in an English country house, albeit one in upstate New York.

This is apparently an application to join that mainly British club of crime novelists identified by Julian Symons as farceurs. Here we demand more grime and grit from US crime fiction. James Lee Burke duly obliges in Cimarron Rose (Orion, £16.99). Burke's PI is Billy Bob Holland, a hairy-chested lawyer racked with guilt but determined to bring terror to a Texas town as corruption threatens He's tough and tender but, like Stephanie

Plum, he has too many points to make. Walter Mosley's Gone Fishin' (Serpent's Tail, £9.99) is the sixth of his Easy Rawlins novels to be published, but the first he wrote. Here Easy has still to acquire the badges of generic acceptability: he hasn't yet seen action in World War Two, he hasn't moved to California, in some ways he hasn't even acquired full négritude. That provisional status gives him and his accomplice, Mouse Alexander, licence to roam. In one virtuoso scene of Southern Gothic, Mosley spends pages on a black preacher's sermon in a town called Pariah, while Mouse brilliantly encapsulates the hardboiled credo: "I think wit' my mouf". Only 150 pages long, Gone Fishin' is sprawling, inchoate, exhilarating.

Someone else who thinks with his mouth is Joey One-Way, the sullen hero of Joel Rose's Kill Kill Faster Faster (Rebel Inc., £6.99). Lurching in and out of first-person narrative, Joey doesn't fit in high society, nor is he your conventional lowlife. Yet he can talk about the "critic" and "everyman", and characterise the food in the River Café (Brooklyn model) as "drizzle on the plate." In prose like a breathless incantation, Rose has written a witty and poetic variation on several genres: tough guy, proletarian, prison, rags to empty riches. And not a private eye in sight.

# New light on a total eclipse

t is an amazing story. Arthur Rimbaud, the unknown 16-year-old delinquent poet, writes by Charles Nicholl, Cape, £18.99 to Verlaine - established and nearly 30 - then turns up at the older poet's home in Paris. Verlaine falls in love with the boy and deserts his pregnant wife. The two flee to London and have a violent affair fuelled by huge amounts of alcohol.

Verlaine eventually escapes to his mother in Brussels. Rimbaud follows, only to say he's leaving Verlaine. Verlaine begs him to stay; Rimbaud says no. Verlaine shoots him with a revolver, hits him in the arm, goes to prison. Rimbaud, tries England again - weirdly, he turns up in Reading in 1874 - before abandoning literature and working as a trader in Aden and Ethiopia for the last 11 years of his life. Hc came back to France in 1891 to die. Verlaine died five years later. Both were victims of bohemianism at its most exultant.

The first quarter of Charles Nicholi's book recounts Rimbaud's earlier life with Verlaine. It is written in high focus, with a strong narrative drive, because much was happening and there is substantial documentation. Then, as Rimbaud embarks on his African period in 1880, the style changes. It falters and drifts in an atmosphere of

BRANCE CARREST

क्रमा के किस में जिस्सा के किस में

Barren Carlot St. St. 12 . Section 19.

tropical reverie, hashish dream and sandstorm.

We are among nostalgic yearnings, sun-yellowed extracts from forgotten company ledgers, conjecture, a stream of extract places and few events. The documentary back-up for this phase is negligible - Rimbaud's few letters home and the recollections of commercial colleagues. Whatever there may be of hard-core evidence Nicholl has assiduously traced. But it doesn't amount to a picture.

The dossier-like form of the ensuing book and its author's feline performance with very speculative material present a constant tease. Perhaps we shall soon come to somewhere; perhaps we shall even meet Rimbaud, strangely sensed as one who, wherever you turn up, has just left the room.

Certain of Nicholl's tricks do not feel right. The

Certain of Nicholl's tricks do not feel right. The

on-the-road Bob Dylan sub-theme is pure hippy sentimentality. The switches from past to present tense in historical passages is bogus originality. The present tense in biographical work always comes across as mannered, though not in autobiography. In autobiography the present tense brings one closer to the subject, whereas in biography it takes one further away. So the present is obviously less grating when Nicholl employs it to recount his own recent journeys in Rimbaud's footsteps.

Yet Nicholl keeps himself quite as much of a ghost as Rimbaud, in what one may call the peeping-Tom school of travel writing (Bruce Chatwin and Colin Thubron are the recent masters). The author says "Just go about your affairs as though I weren't here", which produces endless scene-set-ting and no adventure. Nicholl gives us a superb description of the arrival of evening in Djibouti -

an evening on which nothing whatsoever happens. The avoidance of emotional contact is very English and maybe even appropriate. In Africa, Rimbaud sought to turn himself into a stoical, abstracted Englishman. Previously he'd been outrageously the Parisian artist, extravagantly selfaware and expressive, pushing poetry off all sorts

Eventually one adjusts to Nicholl's oscillation of unrealised possibilities and shifts of perspective, even when the background swallows up the foreground. When, for example, a paragraph referring to some obscure record Nicholl has managed to locate begins "There are 14 camel-suppliers. named", one knows one's going to be taken through the whole lot. Yet one accepts it because in such a remote, formless terrain of faint echoes and heat-haze, there isn't much else to do.

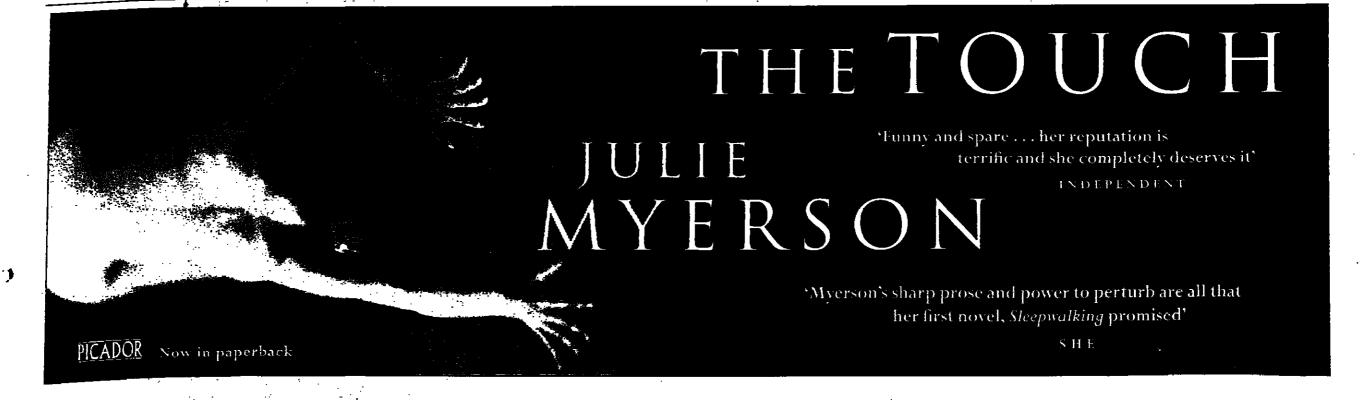
"Exiled here, I had a stage on which to perform dramatic masterpieces". They were very private a severe leg infection. The leg is amoutated. He masterpieces too. Thankfully his colleagues were less reticent. One describes him as "closed-up". Another said "He was, it was plain to see, an embittered and irascible man". His hair went prematurely grey. He took an Abyssinian mistress but there were no children and his greatest emotional attachment was to a servant boy. A part of him was somehow ego-less, picking up local languages very quickly and slipping effortlessly into the rhythms of native life. He traded in

gold, ivory, guns, earthenware jugs of his own design, but not slaves. It also becomes very clear what drove Verlaine mad. Rimbaud was the classic pain-inthe-neck adolescent, relentlessly sarcastic, clever, surly, uncooperative. He seems to have stayed that way. There is a terrible stubborn-ness against life in Rimbaud. Nicholl refers to "The horror of stasis: to arrive at the empty inn, at the end of the adventure, and find your old self waiting for you. If you

Nicholl doesn't investigate the crassness or divine idiocy - in Rimbaud, the refusal to connect or care about anything or anybody. Nor, in a book fundamentally about the need to escape, does he pursue that great idea either. Why did Rimbaud need to escape so completely? Why did he stop writing? Why, for that matter, did he start writing? What is the connection between poetry and fury? Lists of camel-suppliers are all very well but some intellectual exploration to parallel the geo-graphical would have been fruit-

The end is ghastly and mov-





# Paperbacks

By Christopher Hirst and Emma Hagestadt

The Men Who Murdered Marilyn by Matthew Smith (Bloomsbury, £6.99) The title of this superior exercise in the conspiracy genre gives the game away not that we get to know the names. Through a deadpan accumulation of the facts, Smith reveals that Monroe was in deep waters. Lead players in the story include the Kennedy brothers and their sleazy gofer Peter Lawford, mobster Jimmy Hoffa and the Mafia. But Smith points his finger at the CIA and "the venomous hatred [for the Kennedys] of: the Bay of Pigs survivors".

Tickle the Public by Matthew Engel (Indigo, £8.99) Delighting in his rackety source material, Engel stuffs his history of the popular press with quotes. Vivid prose came early - an 1825 boxing report describes "gravy distilling from damaged squinters" - but Harmsworth's 1895 Daily Mail was the first successful pop news "package". Engel profiles successive market leaders up to the Sun under Kelvin MacKenzie, whose innovation was "to change the facts to suit his idea of what was required". Not that Engel is censorius: "MacKenzie is a genius. No other word will do." Unlike most studies of the media, this work is as pithy and entertaining as its subject.

Learning to Drive by William Norwich (Review, £6.99) It's summer in 1980s New York. "Papa don't Preach" is playing on the radio, Soho is booming and Julian Orr, a 37-year-old gossip columnist, is en route to his driving test. Two hours later he's navigating round Queens with a corpse on his bonnet and a revolver at his head. Journo William Norwich's first novel takes a few chapters to get going, but this particular bonfire of the calamities is well worth the wait.

Running the Amazon by Joe Kane (Pan, £7.99) The 1986 expedition which aimed to navigate the Amazon from its Andean source to the Atlantic encountered a plethora of obstacles. At impassable corkscrew gorges, the kayaks had to be lugged over mountain ridges. Later, the canoeists were all but drowned by titanic white waters. Nor were they safe on land, being forced at gun-point to make a contribution (five cans of tuna) to the Shining Path. But the main problem faced by the multinational team was internal, a simmering antagonism which eventually exploded in turbulent break-up.

Dickie edited by Brian Scovell (Corgi, £6.99) These tributes to the twittery, but much-loved ex-umpire Harold Bird range from John Major to Dickie's pharmacist in Barnsley ("he used to take garlic pills and now takes cod-liver oil tablets"). Most contributions are a mite predictable: "One of the game's great characters" (M Gatting). But Mike "Bonko" Brearley cites Aristotle, Martin Johnson of the Telegraph quotes Dickie on his dream life: "Aye, woke up at four. Terrible dream. It were those boogers Wasim and Waqar appealing for lows again." A fine selection of photos reveals Dickie "like a tree bent and moulded by the prevailing wind" (M Parkinson).

My Silver Shoes by Nell Dunn (Bloomsbury, £5.99) Next time Joy goes out with someone she's going to tell them the truth - about her mum. Glad. (going senile), her son (an army deserter) and her council flat (drab). This sequel to Nell Dunn's classic novel Poor Cow catches up with Joy and Glad 30 years on as they cadge fags and lose boyfriends on an estate in South London.

Eight German Novelias new translations by Michael Fleming (Oxford, £6.99) This collection of fantastic and eccentric tales by Ludwig Tieck, Georg Buchner, Theodor Storm et al features as much bad weather as Wuthering Heights, though 19th-century Germans were more excited by jewel-laying birds and witches than brooding farmhands and fallen women. Particularly windy is Storm's "The White Horse Rider", a ghost story set in the fenlands of Schleswig Holstein.

#### **Audiobooks**



we hours of nonstop agonies and ecstacies of "the handsomest man in England" is hard to take but, consumed in short chunks, Rupert Brooke: his life and poetry (CSA Telltapes, 2hrs, £8.49) is excellent listening. The combination of Mike Read's no-nonsense gallop through the poet's short life and Douglas Hodge's eager reading of the poems works well.

Christina Hardyment

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The Weird West: a landscape by Edward Weston from 'American Photography 1890-1965' (Thames & Hudson, £19.95)

# Farewell, New Croydon

en Bradford, the narrator of Douglas Kennedy's second novel, always wanted to be a globetrotting photo-journalist but has instead become a Wall Street lawyer with the usual wife and two kids and a home in the posh Connecticut commuter town of New Croydon. Kennedy, New York-born but now a Londoner, collected a milliondollar-plus advance for the US rights to The Big Picture. One thing the Americans will not get for their money is the Croydon joke. They'll read it, but they won't get it, as it goes way over their heads

collection of cameras and darkof hell". Actually, all we are shown on that front is the horrors of nappy-changing and the dull train ride to Grand Central. Ben's real problems are more to do with the fact that his bitchy wife Beth is hav-

ing it off with a neighbour.

Beth is a failed novelist who tying her down. Since her novels were all of the precious autobiobegan to sew a quilt in our back paper falls for him, his portraits of Croydon joke finds no successors to

#### The sheer velocity of coincidence in a million-dollar thriller leaves Hugo Barnacle exhausted

The Big Picture by Douglas Kennedy, Abacus, £16.99 hardback, £9.99 paperback

yard"), she could well be kidding herself. Then again, Kennedy has done all right despite some pretty poor writing, as when Ben takes the helm of a fast yacht and says, "The sheer velocity of speed held and appeals purely to the British me in as thrall," so the reader may readership. Nice touch, prefer to give Beth the benefit of Ben still plays with his impressive the doubt.

The obvious question, with midroom equipment, but is finding that life crisis imminent, is whether Ben's chances of throwing off suburban shackles and succeeding in photography are any better. It turns out they are, surprisingly so. Beth merely dreams of escape The only difficulty is that if Ben through adultery but Ben takes a more radical approach.

He confronts Beth's lover, kills him, uses the body to fake his own blames Ben for making her fail by death by fire, takes over the dead man's identity and trust-fund inheritance and runs off to start a new graphical kind ("That autumn, life in Montana. There, the beau-, farce out of this story, but Kennedy under a salmon sky, my mother tiful picture editor of the local

Montana people are acclaimed as "terrific" and "fantastic", and his reportage of a forest fire brings him national fame.

Unfortunately it also brings an inquisitive Beth and her new sugardaddy husband to his opening of the "Montana Faces" exhibition, so Ben has to do another bunk and "die"all over again. This is easy, because the one man who has discovered his secret suffers a fatal accident in a lonely place within minutes of issuing a blackmail demand, so there's another body handy. Phew. wants to hang on to the beautiful picture editor he will have to tell all, which could place as severe a strain on her love as Kennedy places on our credulity.

A novelist like Geoff Nicholson could probably make a good black seems to be playing it straight. Thespeak of, and the emphasis on Ben's grief at leaving his sons behind, the conventional romance and the travelogue-style meditations on the vast Montana landscape resist an ironic approach. The use of convenient unlikelihoods – the murder victim's lack of relatives, the fact that Ben happens to be passing when the forest fire breaks out, and the blackmailer's ludicrously prompt demise - is apparently meant to be your average kind of sleight-of-hand, not a deliberate alienation technique.

Neither does Kennedy acknowledge the weird shifts of tone that take us from the Richard Ford opening to the Patricia Highsmith mid-section (the murder and its aftermath recall Ripley Under Ground) to the Hollywood silliness of the rest. So far as one can tell, he hasn't noticed and doesn't expect us

It is easy to like The Big Picture but hard to admire it. You keep on reading, mostly to see just how absurd it can get. After a certain point, the whole novel amounts to no more than a nakedly earnest pitch for a movie. Fox now have screen rights, but they'll probably change the title, already used for a satire on Hollywood directed by Christopher Guest of Spinal Tap fame. So even if the film succeeds, the book will soon be forgotten.

# The mother of all baffles

Nicholas Royle loses the plot but enjoys a firework display

The Days of Miracles and Wonders by Simon Louvish, Canongate, £16.99

Simon Louvish must have been dreading this moment. It was in these pages that he gave Tibor Fis-cher's The Collector Collector such a rubbishing ("this book is truly terrible") that he must have been living in fear of either a nocturnal visit from a thought-gang of Hungarian hitmen or a tit-for-tat review by Fischer of The Days of Miracles and Wonders. But Louvish got lucky. He got me.

Well, maybe not that lucky.

"How do you describe the indescribable?" asks the blurb. Good question. In essence, this is a novel about western hypocrisy in the Gulf War, but the fall of the communist regimes and an engaging subplot about a frustrated author with murderous intentions towards his former publisher are also entangled. After having read the entire 440 pages, I would have a job to tell you much more than that about what is actually going on. There's the return of Avram Blok, from Louvish's previous extra-terrestrial broadcasts, by

novels: this time, he's a 'Now he sold therapist in an East London notions to sanatorium. There is, bewilnovelists and deringly, a part for Richard the Lionheart and a short-story role for Rupert Sheldrake's theory of morphic resonance. And little bottles there's a kid-

writers in

and flasks'

napping. What Louvish has in spades is ideas.

Danny Hohenlohe, the embit-tered writer, used to have novel, it's hard for long plenty as well. He even reveals their source: "an old Chinese hock shop on Orchard Street, Lower East Side New York The proprietor was a very old man who had been an aide-decamp to Chiang Kai-shek ... Now he sold notions to novelists and short-story writers in little bottles and flasks".

passenger jets en route to Heathrow which drop them through the skylight in my loft, and I have to wonder if Louvish lives under the same mandeer the dreamer's car and the image of a dead man

blame morphic resonance). Louvish's prose is energetic and flexible, well up to the challenge posed by its freight of ideas and subject matter, par-ticularly the byzantine world of Middle Eastern politics and the Gulf War. He possesses an enviable range of voice-tones and a useful command of irony.
"I adore the English" says one character. "Your Pilkington night-sights are an invaluable asset in the counter-insurgency field. Your Marconi smart mines are a whole generation ahead of your competitors". Some of his funniest moments come when he turns his gaze on Britain (and it's difficult to know where Louvish - born in Glasgow, raised in Jerusalem. resident in London - considers home). "Satellite-television salesmen pile out of a Volkswagen van with striped shirts and peaked red caps, grabbing

novel, Saxophone Dreams. I

unwary passersby and forcing them, by painful judo holds, to accept free subscriptions to newstand

CHANCE". The Gulf War is always crackling in ground, but given cacophony of voices (you will lose count of the number and the mad-

stretches to stay with the plot. Not even an apprenticeship spent ploughing through the nouveaux romans of Nathalie Sarraute and the later works of Robbe Grillet will quite prepare you for The Days of Miracles and Wonders. Which is a shame, because when you've hacked your way Now, I get my ideas from through the undergrowth and finally reached a clearing in the text, it's a relief to be mugged by the sudden clarity of the writing, and by the emotional impact of the flightpath. But I don't only like hostage release and the his ideas for having had a cou-ple of them myself (the dream in which the Ceausescus comvish's mind should be shooting editors; with the help of one. playing the clarinet will be this could have been a master-familiar to readers of my last piece.

# Sketches in freehand

#### David Dabydeen rejoices in Guyana's new creative dawn

The Ministry of Hope by Roy Heath, Marion Boyars, £16.95

Roy Heath's fiction is wholly based in Guyana and explores family tensions mired in the country's social and political upheavals. His acknowledged talent, in novels like The Murderer, is the exposure of passions that can climax in a terrifying disintegration of morality. His new novel is no different. It reveals the nature of Guyana's decay between 1966 and 1992, a period when the Americans, hysterically fearful of communism, established and financed a fascistic regime. Political patronage, sexual thuggery, kleptomania and killings bankrupt the society, both morally and economically. Various forms of migration offer the only escape

from the net of deceit and intrigue. That Heath is able to name actual characters as murderers and victims testifies to the continuing role of the writer as political witness and archivist. It is also an acknowledgement of the spirit of openness in Guyana today. The post-Cold War period has seen a blooming of literature in Guyana that

past but also to signpost the future. Heath's hopefulness lies in the redemptive possibilities of art. His characters are variously trapped and muted in systems of greed, but each continues to struggle towards selfexpression. The hero, Kwaku, is a fake

herbalist healer and small-time hustler. but his garrulity and incessant storytelling mark him out as a folk artist. He is a wonderful liar, but his lies are lifegiving. They create humour, whereas the lies of the politician are cynical and lack metaphorical colour.

The novel's theme, of art versus power, is made explicit in the character of Surinam, a painter who will not exhibit for tourists and whose refusal to sell himself contrasts with the politician's norm. Surinam's descent into madness mirrors the condition of his society. Anne Correia is a budding painter who ends up as the mistress of a corrupt minister. Her eventual escape is not a migration into the subconscious, as with Surinam, but to a remote part of Guyana where she lives among a pre-Columbian tribe.

Of course there is a certain hollowness in her utopianism, and Heath describes her escape to "a world far removed from coastal certainties" in Conradian terms . Kwaku is a storytelling liar; Surinam a rather precious artist; and Anne a seeker after bogus innocence. But for all their failings and lack of genuine artistic talent, they share a desire to cleanse themselves

of the corruption of their environment. Heath's novel is Guyanese not only in its social landscape but in its attempt at a native structure. The novel is populated with unevenly developed characters, and the narrative is interrupted by the sudden reappearance of some minor or unfinished figure. Long seeks not only to name the evils of the conversations end inconclusively, or else there are seemingly unnecessary digressions. Such refusal to come to the point can be irritating to a British reader. The lack of finish, however. conveys the spontaneity of Guyanese "orature", and challenges our expectations of what a novel should be.





Paul Theroux: strong taste of Hong Kong

# Sunset boulevards

E Jane Dickson on the expats' twilight

Kowloon Tong by Paul Theroux, Harnish Harnilton, £16.99

eville "Bunt" Mullard is the proprietor of Imperial Stitching in Hong Kong, a tidy business specialising in the manufacture of elaborate badges for the breast pockets of British club blazers. Bunt (short for Baby Bunting) is 43 but lives with his mother in a house called Albion Cottage. He drives a 1958 Rover and listens to the news on an ancient Roberts Radio. The stuff of Bunt's daily life is made in Britain, built to last, but with the imminent handover of the colony to China, the durability of all things British is ironically beside the point. Paul Theroux is not a man to stint the signifiers. His latest novel, Kowloon Tong, can at times resemble a piece of Baroque statuary, so heavily encrusted with allegory that the subject seems to droop under the weight.

Theroux has rejected a panoramic vision of Hong Kong in its last days of empire for a straightforward domestic narrative. Bunt and his mother, Betty. are approached by the sinister Mr Hung, a representative of the Chinese army who wants to buy the auspiciously sited Imperial Stitching building. Bunt at first refuses to take the "Chinky-Chonk" seriously, but it becomes clear that Mr Hung's "offer" is more in the nature of a requisition.

Blustering and bewildered. Bunt serves as a kind of expat everyman: "When had the subject peoples of the British empire ever been anything but riddles? The Chinese were a supreme and slitty example of that. They were always out of focus, and the nearer you got to them the harder they were to see." By the time Bunt adjusts his focus to the new reality, the game is up.

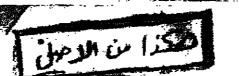
An habitue of Kowloom's "blue bars", Bunt fails to find relief in sex. "Sex was a balancing act that always

ing slipped and been inattentive; of not knowing how to explain it. You refused to remember it, and when you tried

again the failure was repeated." Such attentive articulation of complex emotion marks Theroux as a writer at the height of his powers, and makes the reader all the more impatient with the slapdash characterisation in the bulk of the novel. Mr Hung is given one brilliantly paced scene explaining the esoteric pleasures of Chinese cuisine: "This is delicious because it has been strung up' he said. You know how? Some string - tie it'. He made deft throttling and knotting gestures with his fingers. Truss it well and hang it for days. Let it air dry. Just dangle there. The rest of the time, however, Hung is your standard inscrutable, straight from the files of Charlie Chan.

Similarly, Betty Mullard with her slipping dentures and racist remarks is a grand guignol horror, a cross between Maggie Thatcher and Giles's Grandma. Nuances of speech are lovingly observed. but occasionally jar. The racism and vulgarity of the expats are surely best left unembellished. And when was the last time a doughty matron reached for her

"gamp" when the weather turned nasty? Unsurprisingly, some of the best pas-sages of Kowloon Tong are Theroux's evocation of atmosphere. Long after the book is finished, the taste of Hong Kong - the gritty air and bus fumes, the stewed steam of the mottled sea-water sloshing against the pier, the foul dust from the land reclamation - is vivid in the reader's mouth. Patchily accomplished, but always readable, Kowloon Tong hovers between realism and satire. If it is realism, the characters are too gross. If it is sature, the story is too small. "Sex was a balancing act that always conded in failure, a fail, a sense of have one – is a problem of scale.



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travel & outdoors

On the 30th birthday of the Kinks' chartbuster, Waterloo Sunset, Simon Calder takes a lyrical trip around SE1

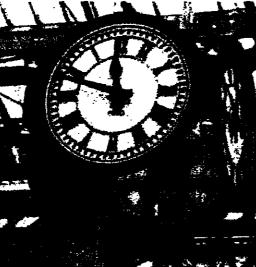
hirty years ago, this was a busy week in pop music. Scott Mackenzie's only hit - "San Francisco (be sure to wear some flowers in your hair)" - hit the US charts. In Britain, the summer of love was a less glamorous affair. The new arrival here was "Waterloo Sunset" by the Kinks. Ray Davies's gentle love song revolves at 45 rpm around one of the least celebrated but most magical areas of London: the scruffy sweep of shoreline bounded by Westminster and Blackfriars bridges. Armed with a selection of lines from the lyrics, you can spend one fine day on the not-too-long and winding roads of SE1.

"Dirty old river, must you keep rolling ..." The Thames throws a massive loop around Waterloo, thereby endowing the area with spectacular river views. The bulge of land that comprises the Waterloo peninsula provides a fine 180-degree prospect, sweeping from St Paul's Cathedral to the Houses of Parliament - now, as in 1967, dominated by a Labour government.

Dirty? The Thames is not nearly as niffy as it was when it acted as main sewer for the whole of London, but probably not yet sparklingly clean enough for a day at the beach. A shame, because when the Thames is suitably low, some genuinely sandy beaches are revealed on the south bank. Low tides this week have revealed a good few patches of grade one sand.

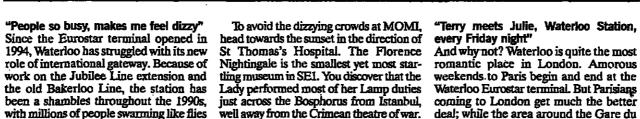
The most accessible beach is just in front of the Oxo Tower - a fanciful redarchitectural advertisement for stock cubes. Follow the signs for the National Theatre, then walk east along the riverside walk until you're just in front of the tower. A ladder leads down to the sand; don't try this at high tide. If the clouds interrupt your sunbathing wander further along the shore to the Anchor pub. where Tom Cruise sank a pint at the end of Mission Impossible.

Old? Certainly the Thames followed the same course in Roman times, which is when the invaders set a sociological precedent by deciding they preferred north of the Thames. The reason was not the river after dark (as taxi drivers are loath to do today), but because the shore six weeks ago by a bunch of sharks. comprised mostly uninhabitable marshland. The swamp was drained in medieval times, but is remembered in street names like Lower Marsh - now a straggly market. The neighbourhood took the name of Waterloo from the vast mid-Victorianmeets-21st century railway station, whose platforms lope across SEI for half a mile.









"Every day I look at the world from my

window' Ray Davies is a Muswell Hill man, born and bred in London N10. If he were ever mind, from the apartments carved out of the old Shell Building that bullies its way for residents is that they look away from, rather than towards the Shell Building, a structure that looks as if it was imposed on Waterloo by someone with a grudge against society and a giant Lego outfit.

To avoid the dizzying crowds at MOMI, "Terry meets Julie, Waterloo Station,

romantic place in London. Amorous weekends to Paris begin and end at the Waterloo Eurostar terminal. But Parisians coming to London get much the better deal; while the area around the Gare du Nord is in a remote part of the capital, French weekenders to Britain arrive in the heart of London. Within five minutes, Thierry et Jules can be hand-in-hand on the Riverside Walk - a location beloved

of film producers. When the makers of Four Weddings and roughest this side of Whitechapel, but decent places to eat have proliferated along Waterloo Road in the past four years. The old fire station has become a trendy restaurant called the Old Fire Station, the you'" - they chose the promenade just flash of blue adjacent to the Old Vic sigoutside the National Film Theatre.

Robber, ended at the same place, with Phil Collins manning a flower stall. The real Buster Edwards was a florist, but his stall was located underneath the rail arch on Waterloo Road. The local hero is no more:

Eurostar made it a mainfin PHOTOGRAPHS: GEOFFREY KATZ/ COLORIFIC!; GRAHAM HARRISON/

Flipside of Waterloo: the Kinks, centre, put the area

on the map, even before

TELEGRAPH LIBRARY; MIKE McQUEEN, MICHAEL HARRIS AND JASON HAWKES/TONY STONE

architecture of Southwark Cathedral, a mile downriver, but it has an intriguing history. "Built by a grateful nation in Thanksgiving for the victory of Waterloo", announces the plaque within the milky neo-Classical columns. The tablet then tells of 8 December 1940, when the church took a direct hit from a German bomb: "This Waterloo church, stoutly built by

fine builders, took the shock and shuddered to her depths. In those depths 150 people, including the parish priest, were assembled. The old church, the mother of souls in the parish, true to her maternal instinct, gathered the full force of the blast into her heart and gave her life for her children. Nobody was hurt."

The church was rebuilt to become the Christian Centre for the Festival of Britain in 1951, and is now the only British church to be sponsored by Eurostar.

Terry and Julie cross over the river, where they feel safe and sound" Perhaps the lovers are anxious about the homeless people who inhabit the Bull Ring - a circular concrete monstrosity whose undercarriage conceals the under-class of SE1. But in 10 years of living in Waterloo, I have never encountered any

hostility from the impoverished residents. "As long as they gaze on Waterloo sun-

set, they are in paradise" The view from the bridge has changed surprisingly little in the past 30 years, and even Monet - who rented a room in the Anyone staying home at night is missing Savoy Hotel whence he painted the an extraordinary concentration of enterbridge obsessively a century ago - would tainment. Within a quarter-mile square, recognise the scene. On the South Bank, brutalist concrete has risen from wartime the Royal National Theatre has three auditoria plus live foyer performances; the dereliction (and romantic strollers prob-Queen Elizabeth Hall stages the likes of ably wish it hadn't). To the north, the most notable addition is the Eighties embeli-Ray Davies, and, when it is not hosting Labour's victory party, the Royal Festival Hall is one of Britain's leading music ishment of Charing Cross Station. But the structure barely impedes the capital's venues. On Baylis Road, you find a coumiraculous mirador.

The finest sunsets can be seen six weeks from now, when the midsummer sun will appear to crash in flames behind the magnificence of Somerset House. But even better than the Waterloo sunset is the summer sunrise from the bridge, creating a stunning silhouette of St Paul's Cathedral while splashing sharp shadows across Westminster. To respond to the demand from another Kinks song, "Give me two good reasons why I oughta stay": try Waterloo sunset and sunrise.

Tourist information in Waterloo: the London Tourist Board desk in the International Seek sanctuary on Waterloo Road. St Currency Exchange office in the Eurostar John the Evangelist lacks the status and arrivals hall, open 8.30am-9pm daily.

"People so busy, makes me feel dizzy" brick creation that is the most glorious 1994, Waterloo has struggled with its new role of international gateway. Because of work on the Jubilee Line extension and the old Bakerloo Line, the station has been a shambles throughout the 1990s, with millions of people swarming like flies around Waterloo's one remaining underground line, the Northern. No doubt taxi lights shine so bright because the drivers

are getting so much extra business. Tourists who persevere with London's biggest building site are rewarded with. some of the capital's greatest attractions. The water in the new Aquarium, which occupies part of County Hall, is much cleaner than that in the river. The GLC that chariot drivers refused to go south of politicians were evicted from the capital's seat of government in 1986, and replaced

The Museum of the Moving Image is the best concealed in London, buried beneath the southern approach to Waterloo Bridge. It traces the flickering story of film and television, but for dizzy old Sixties hippies the most appealing feature is the collection of ancient TV advertisements.

to move south of the Thames, though, he should choose Roupell Street. Amid the shambles that surrounds Waterloo East station, this handsome early 19th-century thoroughfare could be a movie set. Aside from the archbishop's residence at Lambeth Palace, this is the most desirable address in SE1. The views are better. on to the riverside. And the added bonus

a Funeral wanted the perfect place for the corniest line in the film - Hugh Grant stammering to Andi McDowell: "In the words of David Cassidy, while he was still with the Partridge Family, I think I love

Buster, the film story of the Great Train he hanged himself three years ago.

of taxis parked outside each evening. "And I don't feel afraid"

Recorded @ Calder Studios

stay at home at night"

"I am so lazy, don't want to wander, I

ple of Vics (one Old, one Young), and the

local cinema is the National Film Theatre.

mifies the Bar Central, and the best fish and

chips in the South are served at Superfish

at number 191 - you can tell by the dozens

True, some of the local pubs are the



#### The Belgian connection

the 19th century and a damp May hinchtime at the end of the 20th century. But here at the outskirts of Brussels, you

would be wrong.
With your back to the rather ugly monument known as the lion mound, you are standing where the Dutch and Flemish soldiers stood 182 years ago under the command of William, Prince of Orange. Wellington's troops were gathered to the left, around the farmhouse of Mont St Jean. Facing the 68,000 Allied troops, less than a mile away on the ridge at Belle Alliance, the 72,000 soldiers of Napoleon's army spearheaded

by the French Imperial Guard. It's not that long ago, maybe nine generations, and when von look over the open, slightly rolling countryside it's easy to imagine that morning. There's a feeling when you walk that the land holds on to the memory. Every now and again grassy patch in the middle of ders fields only 50 miles away, rows carefully skirting around this spring day. them and cow parsley blowing gently across them.

ou'd think there would be The main Brussels to a world of difference Charleroi road still cuts through between a bright June the middle of the battlefield, morning at the beginning of and is lined with grander memorials to the dead. Near the farmhouse of La Haie-Saint, a stone column comthe original Waterloo, beyond memorates the Honourable Sir Alexander Gordon of the Scots Guards. He was Wellington's aide de camp, only 28 when he was killed. On the side of the column a long inscription ends with the words: "In testimony of feetings which no language can express, a disconsolate sister and five surviving brothers have erected this simple memorial to the object of their tenderest

> On the farmhouse itself, a plaque informs you that at about 6.30 on the evening of 18 June, it was taken for the French by Marshall Ney after "heroic assaults"; the scarred, chipped, white-brick walls still bear witness to them.

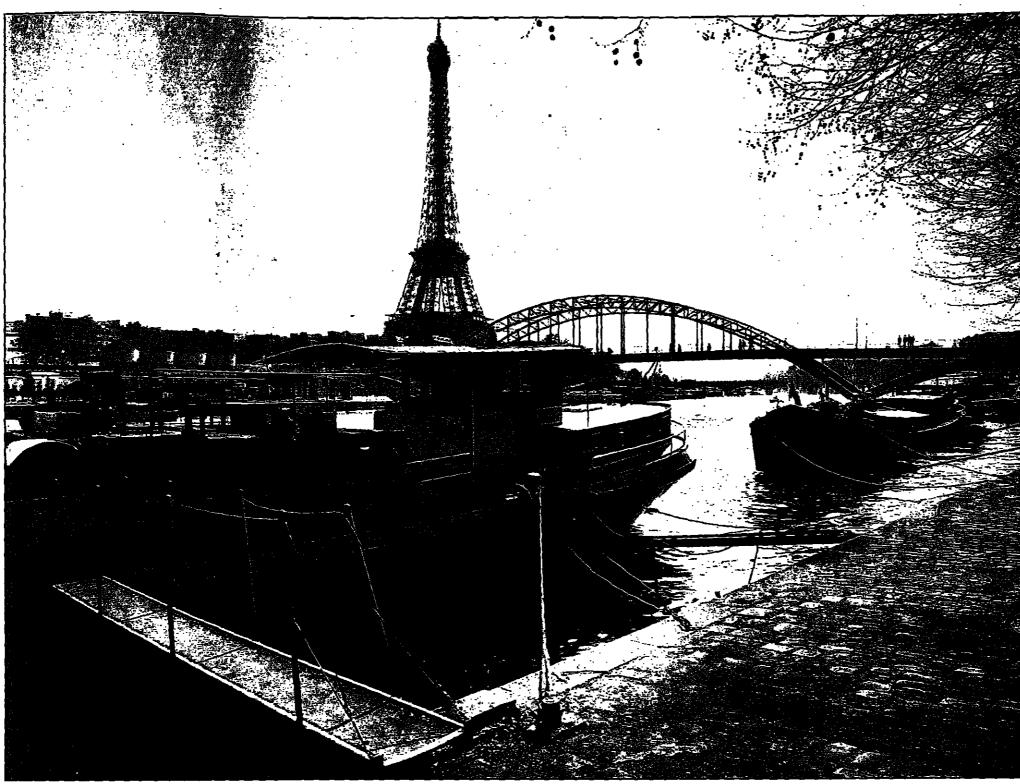
affection."

By the end of the day 13,000 men were dead, more than half of them from the losing French side. No wonder these through the fields themselves fields feel haunted. And as you walk away and look northwest you remember that these you come across two or three ghosts are just the forenumers gravestones, clustered on a of those belonging to the Flana ploughed field, with the fur- and five generations closer to,

Philippa Goodrich



# Rollin' down the river



A world away in Paris: slow down, think local, think river and canal. Below, La Chouette floats past Notre Dame

### France is affordable again. But what about the holiday hordes? Frank Bough escaped them on a luxury river cruise to Paris

n 1996, we very nearly missed France completely. Not to go for a whole year - unthinkable. It was August before we could manage it, and who wants to go then? (They've been known to declare St Tropez closed on several a single car space left.)

Then there was the exchange rate. 7.40 francs to the pound - miserly, and entirely unsuited for any kind of mental arithmetic. Who could work out the price of anything? Which is why in 1996. one in five Francophiles turned their back on the country, and holidayed somewhere else.

But, lo and behold, this year France booking in again. Why? Well, to start with, it is as if the whole country, sorely distressed by the large drop in visitors, and feeling it where it really hurts, in the slow down, think local, and think river pocket, has taken a crash course in how to be nice to visiting foreigners. Partic-

Glasgow G64 1BR.

fiercely independent, proud of country, of language and of history. They don't like us much because we shout at them in English, and expect them to reply in English. But try a Bonjour, and you'll be a day you are really relaxed. occasions during that month, with not astonished what a lovable, friendly chap the onion man can be. And then, of course, there's the exchange rate. I did Last summer it struggled to cough up a quick and well-timed bank raid a week or two back and came out with nine francs for every pound I'd left behind. Gives you a wonderful warm feeling. But here we have a problem. If the hordes are returning to France in 1997, how

best can we avoid them? My advice is to ignore the Riviera and the Mediterranean coast. Forget the is back in business. The visitors are Alps, swarming with walkers and mouncoast. M Hulot, his family and other Parisians are there in force. Instead,

and canal, as we did.

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When you're on a converted barge, as on the Canal du Loing, south-east of hurry. The boat travels, in stately fashion, at four miles an hour. Your mind adapts much the same speed, and within

La Chouette - the Owl, for so she is called - is the pride and joy of Englishman Bob Marsland and his wife Bobbie. They found her in Holland, working on a dredger, with a crane and bucket in her belly and conveyor belts everywhere. She was filthy, old and, at 32 metres, too long for the French canals on which they wanted her to make a living for them. With admirable enterprise, nay courage, they bought her, cut two metres out of her midriff. and stuck both halves together again. taineers. Back away from the Atlantic Then came the refit. Mahogany, brass, panelling, bar, galley, lounge and three

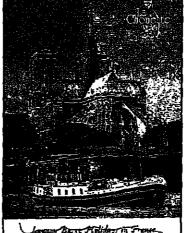
staterooms. You learn why people take before and after photos. The comparison is unbe-The wonderful thing about travelling lievable. The once shabby La Chouette

was now elegant and beautiful. We spent a gorgeous week, starting

we were, you cannot do anything in a Paris, and then switching to the Seine for a truly imperial entry into the capital. The surrounding countryside is so close to the heart of the city. There's a narrow collar of industrial suburbia and then suddenly there are the famous city-centre islands, and the buttresses of Notre Dame cathedral.

And throughout the entire journey there was so much pleasure: lovely houses on the riverbank, flowers everywhere, restaurants, churches and chateaux. The skipper will stop when you fancy, to enjoy what you will. We played boules, and were given tuition on our technique by the locals, all in the friendliest possible way. When we left to drive home, La Chouette continued on her way up the River Marne, towards Epernay and Champagne country.

We'd stayed true to something that splendid travel writer Arthur Eperon had taught us years ago. When asked where he'd been on his holiday, he always said "I've not been on holiday, I've been travelling in France". It still



can be done, in France, at the very height of a European summer.

Prices for all-inclusive seven-day cruises on La Chouette vary from £5,700 for six people hiring the entire boat to £950 per person for a double room. Call 01273
504076 for details.

Frank Bough presents 'Travel Live' on the cable and satellite Travel Channel.

# Simon Calder

Into hea the

#### This paper will not be entering the competition to win a million by writing nice things about Portugal

Bribery is not a term you would associate with Britain's travel industry. So I pass on the following items from the travel trade press only for your interest.

You have every right to expect that your travel agent will offer whatever product is best for you. So if you need a business-class ticket to North America and he or she suggests that you fly Icelandair via Reykjavik, the reason is the excellence of Saga Business Class rather than the "£100 of Marks & Spencer vouchers awarded with every business-class booking" that

the airline is promising.

M&S does well out of the travel industry: in the past few weeks, the Turkish holiday specialist Savile has been offering a £25 gift voucher, redeemable at M&S. Our Price, Boots or Next. After six bookings from a single branch, the pay-off increases to £50.

The car rental giant Avis promises "Five lucky agents each month go to the hot and happening TFI Friday TV show, then paint the town red at a London hotspot". Even if your agent's luck is not in, three rental reservations will earn him or her free cinema tickets. Across the Channel. Holyman Sally Line has been offering incentives for bookings on the new catamaran service from Ramsgate to Ostend: Odeon cinema tickets or Blockbuster video rental vouchers.

Hard cash is the secret of the Colombian airline, Avianca, which begins flights to Bogota this week. The new service is good for low-budget travellers to South America - since the Venezuelan airline Viasa closed in January, there has been a shortage of cheap seats to Latin America. Your agent stands to benefit, too: Avianca pays double the normal nine per cent commission.

Even the Association of British Travel Agents has got into the act. This year's ABTA convention is to be held in Tenerife. Each summer holiday booking to this Canary Island earns the agent a £20 discount on the convention package

Travel journalists have long had to deal with the incentives offered by holiday companies. From this week's postbag alone, for example, I can select between free rail travel for all the family to Paris, two offers of all-expenses paid trips to South Africa, or this luxury break:

"Mid-morning executive champagne mini-coach to Rhinefield House, a magnificent country house hotel at the heart of the New Forest, with delightful ornamental ponds and grounds. Afternoon exploring the New Forest by horse or bike. Return for swimming, solarium or steam room" - and so on for three arduous days.

The Independent saves me the bother of choosing by operating a strict no-freebie policy. Accordingly, I am happy to recommend the services of the low-cost airline easyJet because I have bought plenty of cheap tickets on its flights between Scotland and London - rather than because easyJet's founder has invited me to watch tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix from his apartment overlooking the racetrack.

In the same vein, this paper will not be entering a new competition to win a million by writing nice things about Portugal. The Portuguese tourism authorities have just raised the freebie stakes by offering 1,000,000 escudos - about £3,600 - for the "best piece of reportage publicising or promoting Portuguese tourism in the media".

The latest improbable location to promote itself as a tourist destination is Hounslow in west London. Adding its weight to the campaign, Greater London Radio ran a competition for the best slogan for this unprepossessing community, that straddles the Great West Road. The winning entry relied upon the ease of access to the main road to the west: "Hounslow - the foolscap borough, on both sides of the A4."

#### ularly the British, for whom France has on inland waterways is that they impose always been a favourite destination. upon you their own tempo of life. THE INDEPENDENT We've got you covered from just **L** Alphre resort. Deery time you go every the insurance come inputs up - unless you have an atiqual insurance policy. And, if you then then there emissal cover then there will be better of arranging cover each and every time. fine. The Independent Ainstal Travel Institute, arranged with General Applient who are one of the highest and heat known times in institute, with save you not only money but time has give stage over for any number of holidays each of up to 31. days described throug the year. The policy provides covered by one power for my nor 17 days demains. Two versions of the policy, are available, one for Europe and one for Wickfurder over the policy, are available, one for Europe and one for Wickfurder over. There are individual takes (age 16 - 64 years), and rates for a family comprising 2 at also and 2 children (age 2 - 15 years inclusive). Please send me further information on the Independent Ring the Insurance Hotline on Annual Travel Insurance. 0800 551 881 quote special reference INT441. Alternatively complete the coupon and return it to: Independent Annual Holiday Insurance SEND TO: Independent Annual Holiday Insurance Offer, Offer, FREEPOST. FREEPOST, General Accident, Glasgow G64 1BR. General Accident,

#### Trouble spots Rail travel around the world

Information from the new edition of the Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable (£8.40)

United States: "All the trains that were expected to finish last year, when Amtrak [the operator] ran out of money, have now ceased to run. However, the rolling stock saved by the termination of these trains has been redeployed to permit the daily operation of several others, and the California Zephyr and the Empire Builder now run daily throughout."

Senegal/Mali/Togo: "We are advised that, apart from the international service to Mali, all passenger rail operations in Senegal have been suspended. Apparently, the system in Togo still struggles on, with two locomotives

kept running by cannibalis-ing others. What will happen if one of these breaks down remains to be seen."

Argentina: "Trains are faster, there are more of



#### something to declare

them, and we understand that they often run to time as well, which is a new experience for many rail travellers in that country where years of neglect has led to trains operating anything up to 24 hours

late as a matter of course." Philippines: "The railway,

long considered a hopeless case, and with services so few and far between that people were actually living on the track, has made a revival of sorts. Promises are being made of reintroduced services to the south."

Tunisia/Algeria: "In the last issue we advised that the international train from Tunis to Algeria was probably suspended, Confirmation has now arrived, and all services, freight as well, are suspended because of the destruction of a bridge by rebels in Algeria."

Information on surface transport is always wanted by the compilers; you can fax them on 01733 503596.

## Bargain of the week

At the start of June, rail fares may rise when the new summer schedules commence. Until then, one of the best bargains in rail travel is on Chiltern Railways (0990 165165). The Family & Friends Ticket, which costs £35, allows travel to London from various stations in the West Midlands and Warwickshire for two adults and up to two children. You can make your return journey any time within a month.

#### A likely story

"Moscow, first-class return, £810" - advertisement in Travel Weekly

How can this be? The best that British Airways can offer between London and the Russian capital is a club-class fare costing nearly £1,400. But this advertisement promises "The sophistication of Airbus. Inflight cuisine by Marriott. Exclusive departure lounges". The solution is at the foot of the ad from IMS Travel (0171-224 4678), where the familiar winged hammer and sickle announces that this is, of course, a flight on Aeroflot.

#### Visitors' book

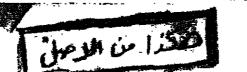
The Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital. Waterloo, London SE1

An excellent exhibition, makes one very proud to be a nurse - Patrick J Boyle, SRN, RSCN, Ireland Remarkable how full circle we have come in nursing - Carole Ann Duck, Texas

On a visit to London before going to Bosnia for six months. Hopefully in case of emergency we will be taken care of in the spirit of Florence Nightingale - four members of B Company, 101 Tank Battalion, the Netherlands

MEI





# صكنا من الاعل

# Into the heart of the hero's homeland

Three years ago today, Transkei's favourite son was inaugurated as South Africa's president. Philip Hoare goes back to Nelson Mandela's roots

alist definite article - has an evocative ring about it, but the origins of the name are peculiarly pedestrian. It is, literally, the land across the River Kei - a cue for David Lean jokes, as we crossed the bridge at the border which used to separate this Xhosa homeland from the old South Africa.

The new South Africa is all out to promote the delights of its Wild Coast - hence the conversion of the concrete pillbox border control to a tourist bureau. Happily for seekers of solace, it is largely

One of the chief joys of the region - now part of the Eastern Cape Province - is the fact that its beauties remain almost totally unspoilt. Its artificial designation as a homeland may have been a cynical ploy of the Apartheid years, but this has also preserved the area's character. Driving north from the coastal city of East London, you quickly lose the poverty of modern townships behind, and regain a land of subsistence farming, incredibly friendly locals, and lots of immaculately dressed schoolchildren. It seems the birthplace of Madiba - a Xhosa endearment allotted to President Nelson Mandela and now adopted throughout the country – also retains much of his forgiving, open

We'd heard that the road to the old Transkei capital, Umtata, passed through Qunu (pronounced, like Xhosa, with a palatal click on the first syllable), the village where Madiba grew up. Accordingly, after a night in a cockroach-infested country hotel at Idutywa, we made a dawn run on Qunu. It rose romantically through river valley mists, set on the highveld which undulates gently towards the coast. Here, in the village of characteristic wattle-and-daub rondavels, the 20th cen-

tury's last great hero grew up.
Unfortunately, our expedition to find his child-hood home was not successful, partly because the locals are rather guarded about their President's origins; it is perhaps too personal a matter for foreigners to come gawping at the Mandela homestead, exhibiting as it does his humble beginnings.



he Transkei - complete with its imperi- However, they pointed out Madiba's country retreat: a low bungalow-cum-compound in yellow brick to which the President escapes at any opportunity. Every morning just before dawn, Madiba sets off on an exhausting (for his companions) hike across the hills, talking all the time, surrounded by a wide diamond-shaped phalanx of bodyguards.

The President's love for the place is perfectly understandable. It is a beautiful landscape, all rolling hills bedecked with flame-coloured aloes. Umtata, at its centre, is a fantastically African town, with street-sellers purveying anything from bootleg trainers to bubble-bath in gin bottles. Here you book accommodation for the Wild Coast reserves in ancient offices lit by flickering emergency electric lights. There are frequent power cuts, and the telephone system is equally erratic. We made the mistake of arriving there on a Saturday, and found only a young man on bushfire watch, one ear glued to his radio as he told us he would have to return on Monday for our bookings.

Undeterred, we set off for the coast. As we descended, the climate became appreciably hotter. An hour later we pulled up by the side of the toad and realised that the vegetation had turned totally tropical. Paw-paw, banana and avocado trees had sprung up to take the place of the cactilike red spikes of aloes, and a million insects and birds were celebrating the fact. The only settlement of any size on the aptly-named Wild Coast is Port St Johns - a haunted old town named after the Sao Joao, wrecked there in 1552. There's a faded hotel, and an excellent guest house, and the whiff of dagga (dope) is never far away. With its deserted sandy beaches, craggy coastline and palms, Port St Johns has the air of a retreat from civilisation; few white South Africans go there.

They don't know what they're missing: the view from the subtropical terrace of The Lodge must be one of the best in the world. Yet such beauty can be treacherous: an inordinate amount of seagoing vessels have met sticky ends on these rocks, and beads and bits of crockery are still being washed ashore from 18th-century disasters.

Despite the fact that there are only about three Tarmac roads in the whole region, it is a pleasure to drive through, because of the affable nature of the people. Even when hurtling down a dirt track and blowing dust in their faces, the school kids and farmers we passed seemed to find the rare sight of obviously lost white people entirely hilarious and remarkable, and our arms ached from reciprocal waving. A few Xhosa words and phrases go down well: "Molweni" in greeting, "Siya bulela" in thanks; but getting the click right to ask for the

river Xora with a dusty mouth is no easy matter. ever - for each seaside destination, you must return

to the Umtata north-south highway - and this may explain why one of the world's most beautiful regions is still largely unexploited, save for a handful of thankfully small resort hotels. It is best explored on foot; the whole coastline is one big hiking freeway. Permits are required to walk through the nature reserves - you must walk north to south and water is available at huts, sited every seven miles.

To walk the entire Wild Coast would take two weeks, so we took a softer option. For two nights, we stayed at one of the few "developed" resorts, The Wild Coast lacks any coast roads whatso- a low-key collection of thatched cottages at the mouth of the Umngazi river. From here you can

take a day's hike to one of the most southerly mangrove swamps in Africa. It was a fantastically primeval sight: white mangrove trees whose aerial roots stuck surreally up out of the grey mud, itself potted with a thousand drillholes, homes to scuttling sesamid crabs. The upper branches of the trees were festooned like nuclear Christmas trees with pedant mangrove snails, all curled up in their twirly cone shells, waiting for the tide to

They must have had a good snigger at us ignorant incomers, lounging blithely on a grassy knoll with no idea that the tide was coming in fast. We got up to go, and found ourselves marooned. For-tunately we were rescued by a motorised dinghy containing two Baywatch babes ..

For me, however, the highlight of the Wild Coast was at one of the huge nature reserves that encompass large tracts of the coastline. It took nearly a day to get to Dwesa, involving a pitch-black drive along unsignposted gullies. It was not a good idea to drive at night. Even the locals seemed less amenable under the cover of darkness; we stopped once for directions and found ourselves intruding on what was probably a muti (witchcraft) ceremony. At last Dwesa came in sight, and having handed our official papers to a suspicious and conspicuously armed guard at a barbed-wire gate, we were shown up steep stone steps to a cabin. Only at dawn the next morning did we realise it was built on 30ft-high stilts, raising us to the level of the forest canopy, and that we were the only occupants in the vast reserve.

It felt rather like being kings of your own country. After breakfast in our cute log cabin (shared with a pair of monkeys which brazenly raided our fruit bowl, and an unidentified possum-like creature which had made its home under the gas cooker), we walked along an empty beach fes-tooned with jewel-like shells (and the odd desiccated baby shark). Then we climbed to Kobole Point and down over the Wild Coast. Its white beaches and verdant bays, its herds of eland and swarms of crab, its deep forests and shallow rockpools, seemed to belong to us alone.



and London) - return before 13 June. Flightbookers (0171-757 3000) has a fare to Johannesburg of £400, including tax, on South Africa Airways, valid throughout June. From Johannesburg, there are trains at least daily

to the gateway town of Nelspruit. The Royal Hotel in Pilgrim's Rest is on 00 27 1376 81100; a double room costs £30 per person per night, including breakfast. The Mount Sheba Hotel (00 27 1376 81241) has a winter special of £45

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# Africa's white tribe

Peter Griffiths makes a trek to Boer country

bere can be few more unpopular commodities on sale in the new South Africa than Boer history. The old white supremacist Afrikaner has few friends in a world still hailing the end of white minority rule. Yet in some of the most beautiful parts of Nelson Mandela's new nation, the controversial story of the white settlers is still being offered as the sole attraction.

The footsteps of the Boers are nowhere more visible than in the rolling hill country of Mpumalanga which, until the boundaries of apartheid were unravelled, was known as the Eastern Transvaal. This green and scenic region marks the far end of the Great Trek, the legendary exodus of Boer farmers away from British rule in the Cape during the 1830s. With their ox-carts and hunting rifles, they pushed eastwards and northwards through an unforgiving expanse in search of new territory. The African locals they met along the way were either scattered, subdued or enslaved.

Today, superbly positioned hotel hideaways tempt "the exhausted executive" with comfort, outdoor pursuits, good food, wine, and clear mountain air. But buy a tourist map of this region and the innocent abroad could still be forgiven for thinking that there is no human history here except that of the white settlers. Three years into the brave new world, there is virtual silence about black South African culture along

this particular tourist route. Pilgrim's Rest, near Lydenburg, is a tourist trap which encapsulates much of this paradox. The fever that followed the discovery of a gold nugget in a river bed here in 1873 made the town boom for more than a decade. Today, this remote mountain bolt-hole looks much as it did in those goldrush days. Wooden buildings with red corrugated-iron roofs line the main street. Since 1971, the town has been preserved as a living museum. The Digger's Den, part of the Royal Hotel, is decorated with sepia images of busy teuted camps, the pained faces of hopeful prospectors, and the heavily laden gold coach about to brave the hazards of Robbers Pass. Guided tours leave from here five times daily along old wagon trails in search of miners' diggings, kitchens, caves and graves.

On a nearby plateau, the luxurious thatched Mount Sheba hotel offers a hiker's paradise, with trails leading around the wooded mountainside and back to a forecourt lined with rusting mining trucks and drilling equipment. The hotel study is stuffed with books in which the 1870s prospectors are revered with ancestral pride. as examples of the ability to "triumph over adversity". Local folklore brims with such outback tales, none more popular than the story of Jock of the Bushveld, Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's trusty dog makes Lassie look like a disobedient mongrel.

Much of the cocooning of the Afrikaner past turns a blind eye to the abuses of recent history and instead lifts up the early Voortrekker families for our admiration. The same is true of other Boer landmarks in the region. The Long Tom cannon overlooking the road to Lydenburg recalls the spirit of stubborn defiance with which the Boers stalled the British Army during the Boer War. On a hillton at the entrance to Pretoria, the massive Voortrekker monument proclaims the "heroic" passage of Boers into "their" new land, and is still a gathering point for militant rallies of the "volk" who feel increasingly marginalised in the new South Africa. Within the city, the house of Paul Kruger, trekker and founding president of the Boer Republic, is a time-capsule of a puritanical bible-thumping existence in which is written all the belligerent survivalism which kept Boers strong in

their belief that they were a special case for so long. The mountains of the Mpumalanga are an extremely popular lure for tourists, being only four a guerrilla commander hours' drive from

Johannesburg. With rates of only £45 per night at even the best resort hotels - such as the Mount Sheba - it is no wonder that foreign tourists continue to flock to the area. But anyone expecting a post-1994 multicultural

experience won't find it here. South Africa's tourism authorities are presently wrestling with the Republic's



Heart veid: landscape belies the brutal Boers TONY STONE

image: "1997 is South Africa's vear of cultural tourism." declares a spokesman. "It's about time we added to the beach, the bush, the sports, and share our rich culture with the rest of the world." Will this mean downgrading the emphasis on Boer history in the country's beautiful laces? "Not exactly, but we'll be trying to correct the balance and bring African

culture more into view." In the meantime, don't be put off if you find yourself confronted by the ghosts of apartheid when going in search of scenic beauty in the hills. Though the history on show is definitely Boer, it is not necessarily boring. Afrikaner hero Louis Botha,

admired by both sides in the Boer War, followed a realistic philosophy: "To defeat your enemy, you must first get to know him." A journey through these golden hills can provide a rare insight into the Afrikaner character: stubborn self-reliance, entrenchment in isolation, and a chosen-race mentality that many feel aggrieved at having to explain to others now that their fortunes have changed.

The Boer may be in the dock as never before, but his story is nevertheless integral to understanding anything about the new South Africa. The trip, however, would be even more illuminating if the forgotten history of the black majority were on show as well.



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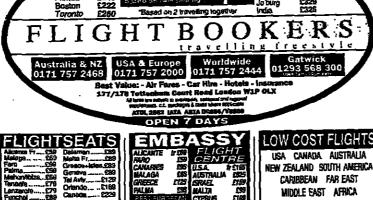
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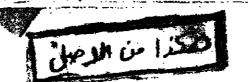
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Days out: Emma Haughton and her family travelled to France for a slice of reel life

t is no surprise that the French coined the term "avant-garde". Futuroscope, the Poitiers-based theme park devoted to the moving image, brings together all the cutting edge techniques of the cinema and houses them in the kind of futuristic buildings that many modern architects would be hard pushed to outdo.

But there's no time to stop and gaze at the jumble of organ pipes or the giant black-glass crystal that dominate this weird landscape. The park has 20 more animated visual gimmicks, including a screen the size of a seven-storey building, a dome-shaped cinema which uses liquid crystal goggles to give its images the illusion of solidity, and an under-floor screen which creates the uncanny impression of being airborne. There is also a giant 3D cinema, an enormous domed screen which gives its fish-eye film an extraordinary breadth of vision, and the synchronised seats of the simulators that deliver all the thrill of a bumpy ride with none of the spills.

The visitors

he world of us

Emma Haughton, a freelance writer, and Jonathan Rees, supply teacher, went to Futuroscope with their sons: Joshua, six, Flan, four, and Zachary, two.

Joshua: The space film was boring because Daddy forgot to get headphones and I didn't know any of the French. I liked the moving cinemas even though I wasn't allowed on the seats. I had to sit on the steps to watch the film, but it was still good.

The Imax 3D was really realistic. You put on these glasses and it was like being in the room or the aeroplane with them, it was really close, but if you took the glasses off it looked all fuzzy. I thought the magic carpet was quite realistic too - you feel like you are floating through the air. In another film you really feel like you are going through space.

Flan: There were lots of the cinemas, but only one was boring. In one film if you took the glasses off the people had two heads, but if you put them on they only had one. There was another one where the cinema pretended to be on the ceiling, it had a big round roof where we saw the film. I hated that one because it was too long, but I liked the bits where you see all the little stars and big stars coming out into space and then coming back again to the earth. I didn't know space looked like that. That cinema was good too, because I was sitting above Mummy and I could lean down and say 'I love you'.

Jonathan: I was very impressed with all the effects,



The avant-garde and the moving image: Futuroscope, where cinematic wizardry is housed in futuristic buildings

PHOTOGRAPH: SYGMA

but could have done without the lengthy introduc- rience all of the sensations with none of the anxiety. for 40 francs you can take a shuttle to the park. Altertions beforehand. They would appeal to real cinema enthusiasts, but I wanted to be thrilled rather than informed. While the kids did enjoy themselves. I think the language difference and sophistication of most of the films makes it more suitable for older

My favourite was the Omnimax dome, where the film was shown all round you. It was very intimate, you felt very involved, although it did make me feel a bit sick. I thought the 3D cinema was especially good for the indoor shots - you really felt like you were in the room with them but I found the story itself a bit dull. At the end of the day I would rather watch

Emma: Even though we went mid-week and off-season, there were the inevitable queues. I found the waiting laborious, but judging by the barriers snaking across the entrance to the simulators, the 30 minutes I endured was nothing. The rides themselves were great fun: suffering from incurable vertigo, I would never go near a rollercoaster, so it was wonderful to expe-

Sadly, our day was marred by the attitude of many of the staff. After all his patient queuing Joshua proved to be a centimetre too short for the simulators and was rather brusquely ordered to sit on the floor, and there were a number of other instances when the French idea of hospitality left much to be desired. When you've paid £50 for a day's entertainment, you feel entitled to a little US-style obsequiousness.

Nevertheless, I had a wonderful time. I'd expected an assault on the senses rather than the emotions, but ultimately found the films rather than the technology made it a day to remember. Many of the images were achingly beautiful: the giant screen filled with millions of gorgeous Monarch butterflies and the panoramic vision of the developing universe pro-jected all around us were unforgettable.

Getting there: By road, the journey from Calais to Futuroscope takes roughly six hours: take the RN10 or A10 autoroute and leave at exit 28. By train the journey takes 90 minutes from Paris on the TGV -

natively Poiners-Biard airport is just 10 minutes away. Admission charges for a one-day pass vary from 140 francs (about £14.70) for adults and 110 francs (about £11.50) for children (5-16) off-season, to 180 francs for adults and 145 francs for children during weekends and summer months. Since there's a lot to pack into one day, this seems fairly good value for money. As part of the park's 10th anniversary celebration, 10-year-olds are currently admitted free.

Facilities: There are five reasonably priced restaurants and three cafeterias, although you can also bring in your own food.

Advice: Plan carefully beforehand to fit the main attractions into one day - many films are shown at set times and some are over an hour long. Measure your kids carefully: the 120cm height restriction for the simulators is rigorously enforced. Guard your translation headphones like your life, especially if you leave your passports as deposit: when Flan's headphones disappeared with a neighbouring child we had to get très sérieux with an official to recover our passports without the threatened 1,000-franc bill.

### Are we nearly there?

Hands-on museums for Museum Week

London Transport Museum: Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-379 6344) As the capital's transport becomes ever more automated, this could soon be the only place where you can drive a tube train or a bus. A new fun bus, designed for the under-5s. is scheduled to arrive on 24 May. Open daily 10am-6pm (Fridays from 11am). Adults £4.50, children £2.50, under-5s free.

The Skyview Experience, Gatwick Airport, West Sussex (01293 535353). The roof of the airport's South Terminal is topped out by a Handley-Page Herald to clamber about upon, plus a range of other aviation-linked paraphernalia including a flight simulator. Open daily, 7am-7pm. Adults £2.95, children £2, family ticket (two adults plus two children) £6. If you only have time for the viewing gallery, prices are adults £1, children 60p.

The Exploratory Hands-on Science Centre, Temple Meads, Bristol (0117-907 5000) The principles of science, from light to gravity, as you've never seen them before. Open daily, 10am-5pm. Adults £5, children £3, family ticket (two adults, two children) £15.

Museum of the Moving Image, Water-loo Bridge, SE1 (0171-401 2636) Fly like Superman or read the news like Trevor McDonald. Until 15 May. includes an exhibition on the history of video games. Open 10am-6pm daily. Adults £5.95, children £4. family ticket (two adults, two children) £16.

National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Prince's View, Bradford (01274 727488). The original, and still the greatest, home of the image - both still and moving. Open 10am-6pm daily (except on Mondays during school term-time), admission free.

Museum of Science and Technology, Manchester (0161-832 2244). In the manufacturing heart of the city where the Industrial Revolution picked up speed, the MST traces everything from the cotton trade to the hot-air system that pumped evergy around the city. Open 10am-5pm daily. Adults £5, children £3.

# Upstairs, downstairs and in my lady's washroom

dips into some kitchen culture with a look behind the doors of four National Trust homes

bones of the Yeoman of the Pastry National Trust has just published Behind the Scenes: Domestic Arrangements in Historic Houses (£24.99) in which Christina Hardyment cele-

tately homes have traditionally brates the intriguing world of the also rubbed the dark woodw played up their Upstairs and Mrs Bridgeses and the Mr Hudsons played down their Downstairs. Whose labours kept the stately homes whose labours kept the stately homes Knole, for example, the splendid stately. Here are four properties, rec-National Trust property near Sevenoaks in Kent, is something of ommended in the book, which specialise in such family attractions. an iceberg for visitors - for three-Apart from Wimpole Home Farm, quarters of it, including the impresentrance is free to NT members sive kitchen area, is as hidden as the Townend, Troutbeck, Windermere, who once worked there. But the Cumbria (015934 32628), Open

1-5pm Tues-Fri, Sun and Bank Holiday Monday. Admission: £2.70, children £1.30, family £7. The home of Lake District "yeomen" or gentlemen farmers, this has been preserved in something of a timewarp since the Browne family left in 1947 - and the basic structure remains much the same as it was when the house was put up three centuries before that. It boasts the earliest and most complete of fitted kitchens", according to Christina Hardyment.

One of the most modern gadgets is the pre-War, hand-powered washing machine in the washhouse. Even now there are few electric lights, which is why the property closes early when the nights draw in. Servants had their own little staucase with rooms off, where you can see their bedclothes rumpled and a nightie left out. As the Children's Discovery Sheet points out, the legs on the bed in the master bedroom were carefully trimmed to compensate for the Alpine slope of the floor. Otherwise, Downstairs rubbed shoulders cosily with Upstairs at Townend. It

is closed in the winter.

Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall (01208 73320). Open 11am-5.30pm Tires-Sun and Bank Holiday Monday. Admission £6, family ticket £15. Grounds only £3. It is one of the few stately homes to have been dynamited, in an attempt to make a firebreak when most of the origi-

Time for a pitstop

Places that positively welcome children: Burnble, 2 Charles Street, Wrexham, Chwyd (01978 355023) All-day snacks are the stock-

in-trade of this popular spot above the gift strop of the same name. Following morning specials of biscuits, tea cakes, scones and ples, the choice gets more savoury -- with jacket potatoes, salads, rarebits and ploughman's platters (£2,99 each). Bumble-blend tea with Weish tea cakes (£1.35) remains a favourite afternoon choice, while assorted cakes meringues and ples sit tempt ingly in the display cabinet. Children's portions available. Open garn-5pm. Closed Sun

From Egon Ronay's Guide ... and Children Come Too' (Bookman, £9.99)

today, waxing is a three-month flames in 1881. It was replaced by programme left until the property what to the Victorians counted as a what to the Victorians counted as a more "modest" building.

The 43 rooms open to the public take a good 90 minutes to wander through. Their names indicate the sheer scale of the staffing: the Nursery Bathroom, with scales and rule to record the vital statistics of the young Masters and Misses, the Nanny's Bedroom, near the Night Nursery for the younger children; the Men's Staircase, next to the luggage lift for heavy trunks; the Footmen's Livery Room, where

uniforms were cleaned; and the

Linen Lobby for clean bedclothes.

Erddig, Wrexham, Clwyd (01978 355314). Open 12-5pm (house) 11am-6pm (garden) Sat-Wed. Adults £5.40, children £2.70, family £13.50. Below-stairs and gardens only, adults £3.60, children £1.80, family £9. "The most evocative Upstairs Downstairs house in Britain", according to the NT. The eccentric Yorke family had an unusual relationship with their staff; all stately homes have portraits of their owners, Erddig has pictures and poems celebrating the servants too.

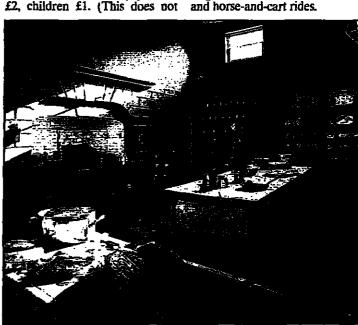
High point of your tour is the tall shower in the bathroom; this late-19th-century portable version sprinkles water from a small tank above the user, who can then pump it up again and recycle it. One of the watercolours on the wall shows the shower in full flow. Before its Erddig kitchen

servant's bedroom, bathing took place in hip-baths in front of bedroom fires. Before that the family ablutions took place in the Bath House in the park.

Wimpole Home Farm, Arrington, nr Royston, Hertfordshire (01223 207257). 10.30am-5pm, Tue-Thur, and Sat & Sun, plus Bank Holiday Monday, daily in July and August. Adults £4, children £2.50. Note that National Trust members pay: adults

National Trust property which boasts servants' quarters, including butler's pantry and steward's room, unchanged since the 19th century.)

Wimpole was set up 200 years ago as a model farm, and its Great Barn, housing historical agricultural machinery, was designed by Sir John Soane. The Home Farm celebrates not just Downstairs but Outdoors as well. Events include Children's Days on 26 May and 25 August with rare breeds on show and horse-and-cart rides.



PHOTOGRAPHS: NATIONAL TRUST/ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

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Close up of the 'close range' at the kitchen in Lanhydrock

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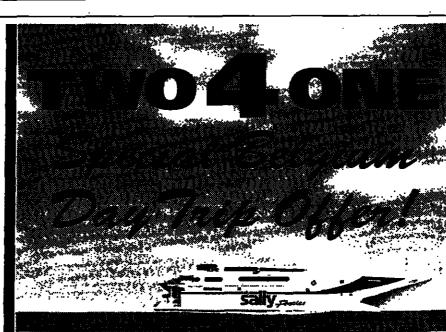
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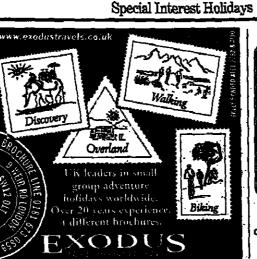
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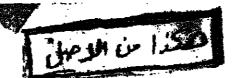




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# Is the ramblers' battle Won?

Street, more than a few hobble hats must have been tossed into the air. The ramblers of Britain are on the verge of an historic victory. At last they have a government pledged to give walkers a "right to roam" over the countryside.

ial appointments. Set aside, for a moment, Tony Banks, Minister for Sport and left-winger. You know whose side he is instinctively on when the Duke of Westminster puts up a "private" sign. (Will Mr Banks perhaps become known as minister of funny walks?)

The Cabinet is packed with enthusiastic ramblers. One of Chris Smith's first acts, as Secretary of State for National Heritage, was to issue a message to the Ramblers' Association: "Let's make right to roam' a reality". He used to go hill walking with John Smith, who made Labour's first pledge to legislate for a "right to roam". It was the former Labour leader's ambition, as part of his recovery after his first heart attack, to reach all a feat Chris Smith has himself achieved. Honouring the right to roam pledge is now seen as a

memorial to Labour's lost leader.

Tony Blair Labour MP for Sherwood, introreached Downing duced a private members bill which foreshadows action by the new government. The bill was lost but its introduction was approved by 144 votes to 60 - Tony Blair voted in favour. One sign of the Prime Minister's continuing commitment came only this week. Elliot Morley, who shadowed the countryside The landed interests must, brief in opposition, was given the meanwhile, have shuddered as same task as an agriculture ministhey learnt of Mr Blair's minister- ter. If Mr Morley carries on in government in the same way as he did in opposition, the "private" signs will soon be coming down all over the countryside.

Labour's pledge has excited much controversy. After all, there are still great tracts of Britain which are forbidden to walkers. In the Forest of Bowland in Lancashire, for example, ramblers have long been banned from all but a fraction of the 37,000 acres of moorland. During the election, some Conservatives argued that Labour's pledge would give walkers the right to traipse through your garden. Michael Heseltine described Labour's plans as "a menace" to farmers. The plans will be fought hard by the well-organised Country Landowners Associthe mountain peaks above 3000ft. ation, which prefers a system of voluntary access negotiated with individual landowners.

Any new law is, however, likely to be limited. Labour narrowly Meanwhile, Frank Dobson, defines open country as mountain David Clark and Ann Taylor have and moorland. River banks are all publicly backed the right to excluded because of the difficulties roam. Last year, Paddy Tipping, of offering access. Even cliffs and on the south side of Snowdon). In gamekeepers on the forbidden

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### Walkers will enjoy more wide open spaces if the new government honours its pledge, writes Jack O'Sullivan

foreshore - which climbers would like included in the definition may not be included. Farmland is definitely not going to be open to the roaming walker. There would also be a duty upon the walker to exercise due care.

Demands to legislate for a right to roam go back to 1884, but attempts have always been defeated by landed interests, wellrepresented in the House of Lords. There has, nonetheless, been gradual progress in opening up the British countryside. The Open Spaces Society, founded in 1865 and supported by several Cabinet ministers, saved the likes of Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath for the nation (Gladstone was a keen walker and once made a major political speech at the age of 83 from a huge boulder in Cwm Llan



Elilot Morley: Labour's open minded countryman

the 1930s, there were mass trespasses in the Pennines and ram-blers played cat-and-mouse with

northern moorlands. There were all these initiatives was a decision huge rallies at Winnats Pass in the by the 1945-51 Labour Govern-Peak District as ordinary people demanded access to open country.

The battle was partly won then. The Ramblers' Association, led by the then Labour Chancellor, Hugh Dalton, passed the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act in 1949, which, within a decade, granted special protection to the finest 10 per cent of the landscape in England and Wales. Local authorities were given the power to negotiate access agreements with landowners and offer compensation. Kinder Scout in the Pennines, scene of a famous mass trespass in 1932, is now owned by the National Trust. The Pennine Way, from Ededale to the Scottish border, has been open for

more than 30 years.

suddenly find yourself in someone's driveway. A 10ft wall and a wrought-iron gate, overlooked by a family house, blocks the route. You'll have to go a different way if you want that pint. This experience is every ram-

and stiles, but instead of pressing

on to the open countryside, you

Under the Blair government, ramblers may have a chance to extend their rights beyond the

footpaths and into the open country

PHOTOGRAPH: JEREMY SUTTON-HIBBERT

bier's nightmare. The map says where the footpaths should be, but they are obstructed. In this case, the wall was erected only in the past few years and a battle between walkers and the homeowner ensues. In others, a farmer may have erected a barbed-wire fence or you encounter a field of rape which is impassable without wielding a large machete. Or the old path along the edge of the field has been ploughed up, leaving a deep ment to produce a definitive map of all rights of way. This map is now the ramblers' Domesday book, ditch as your only remaining route.

Next weekend, the Ramblers'

Association will be out in force, holding a "Free Your Paths Weekend" in an attempt to stop such abuses, which, says the association, make it difficult or impossible to heads for the picturesque Essex use a quarter - 35,000 miles in all - of the public footpaths in England and Wales. Ramblers will be scaling walls and fences and walking through over-cropped fields, reclaiming their rights of way.

fields of wheat and potatoes, through which old rights of way But they know that they will win these skirmishes because the law is forge a path. A pint beckons towards the end of the four or fiveon their side. What really excites mile round trip at the John Barlthem now is the chance that the evcorn in Threshers Bush. But Blair Government gives them to long before you arrive there, the extend their rights well beyond the ancient footpath hits an immovfootpaths - to boldly go where no Perhaps the most important of able obstacle. Beyond are fields rambler has gone, legally, before.

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# It's not just a question of pot luck

## Gardening: Anna Pavord on the best plants for tubs and troughs

utting a plant in a pot has the same effect as putting a frame round a picture. It focuses the eve and sets the object apart. Neither pots nor frames should overwhelm. If you have a pot of decided character, it may be more satisfactory to let it stand alone. Filling it with flowers could be as indigestible as cramming two puddings into one lunch.

Pots provide a quick-fix solution to several gardening problems. They allow you. to grow plants in places such as balconies and roof gardens that have never had a sniff of real soil. At ground level, where earth may have been supplanted by con-crete and tarmac, well-planted pots give an illusion of fecundity and growth.

You can also use them to give instant lift to borders. This is how I use lilies. I mostly lose them if I plant the bulbs in the ground. I suspect small black keeled slugs are the problem. Planted in pots, the lilies bulk up and prosper and can then be plunged into the middle of patches where less is happening than it should be.

Pots are also dangerously addictive, as anyone who has them will already know. One on its own acts as a magnet, for they are by nature clusterers. And what better to set off a fine fuchsia in a pot than a clutch of other pots round its base, filled with a complementary mixture of pelargoniums, helichrysums or the blue daisy flowers of felicia.

This is one way you can get round the problem of not having pots that are big enough, on their own, for mixed plantings. The watering is more difficult, as smaller pots dry out very much more quickly than big ones. But sempervivums (the round flat fleshy rosettes called house leeks), which do not like competition from other plants, are best grown on their own in small, low pots. Then they can be grouped with succulents such as waxy aeoniums and pots of laurentia.

Laurentia - like felicia - is a container plant that has suddenly come out of nowhere fast. I grew it in pots last year, partly because I liked the blue, starshaped flowers, but also because the foliage is so good. It is dark and deeply cut. The disadvantage is that the plants, left to themselves, are very slow to come into flower. It was August before they made anything of themselves. Full grown plants, bought at a garden centre, will have been pushed on faster than I pushed my plants, which were set outside in mid-May.

Cunning gardeners, with greenhouses and conservatories at their disposal, start making up their pots under cover in mid-April so that by the time they go out, the plants are well advanced in growth. But you need a trailer or a strong back, or both, to shift them from the inside out. You also need a lucky break with the weather. Plants grown inside develop in a softer, fleshier way than they do ourside, where hail, heavy rain and wind can tear them to bits.

Paul Williams, who plants up fabulous pois in the garden at Bourton House, Bourton-on-the-Hill. Gloucestershire, always uses plenty of good foliage in his containers. That, more than flowers, he says, is what makes them look rich and exotic. With a rich abutilon, such as 'Ashford Red' he uses cannas, sprawling bidens, which like laurentia, has excellent foliage, and then adds a few more unusual touches, such as pale apricot Mimulus aurantiacus and orange-red cigar flowers (Cuphea ignea).

On its own, the minulus is a scraggy grower, but thrown in a mèlée with other plants, its straggling habit is disguised and vou can admire it extravagantly for its strangely coloured flowers. It is very good with the acid-coloured helichrysum Limelight', but helichrysum is one of the top 10 plants for containers, good with most things. Sometimes it tries to swamp. Then you need to be ready with secateurs to stop it taking over. 'Limelight' is better in



Leafy ideals: abutilon and mimulus produce good foliage for a well planted pot

CLIVE NICHOLS (BOURTON HOUSE)

sioides. Its name tells you what to expect. It's a begonia pretending to be a fuchsia. It can grow up to three feet tall, with fond of B. sutherlandii, a South African strong, reddish coloured stems. The foliage is tiny and very glossy. And the foliage is all you will get, if you use this as a container plant, for the flowers come during the winter, hanging panicles of pink and white.

Because its habit is so upright, B fuchsioides, like the abutilon 'Ashford Red',

I'm also very keen on Begonia fuch- is best used as a centrepiece in a biggish pot, with other plants grouped around it. Try it with scrambling silver-leaved Convolvulus althaeoides and the ever-obliging lobelia, another of the container top 10. The 'Cascade' series of lobelias is first choice for hanging baskets, but it is equally good in pots too, dripping out over the sides to give the feeling of abundance that is the keynote of all the best planted

Another Williams trademark is the use

of herbaceous perennials in contain Crocosmia, for instance. It's not an or ous choice for planting in a por but as points out, the sword-shaped foliage di the same job as the New Zealand fare s phormium. The flowers, at the orange end of the spectrum, blend naturally in nasturtiums swirling around below.

Williams, of course, does sometime. more sophisticated than that. He gove crocosmias in pots with hedychimas ger lilies) to produce wildly jungled effects.

You are also more used to seeing the striped grass, Hakonechlou macra 'Aure-ola' in borders than in pots, but like all grasses, it has great grace and can be used as an arching centrepiece in a biggish pot. The stripes are bright green and yellow, so you need to think carefully about what is to go with it. White is safe, and the underplanting could be of white-flowered petunias. Alternatively, you could build on the yellow note, and add daisy-flowered Coreopsis vertillicata, either lemon yellow 'Moonbeam' or the usefully droughtresistant 'Zagreb', which has rich golden-yellow flowers. The foliage is finely cut.

Mr Williams often uses another grass,

Molinia caerulea 'Variegata', in pots. It's
taller than the stripy have held well above spiky flowering heads are held well above the foliage, which is, again, striped, but much more subdued than hakonechloa. If you like subdued plantings, use it with pur-ple-leaved clover (Trifolium repens Pur-purascens Quadrifolium). If you think it needs lightening up, plant it with varie-gated felicia or blue-and-white nemesia. The oddly named nemesia 'KLM' (Thompson and Morgan £1.69) would be

For more planting ideas for tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes, see Paul Williams's new book 'Creative Containers' (Conran Octopus, £12.99). The garden at Bourson House, Bourson-on-the-Water is open every Thursday and Friday from 29 May to 24 October (12-5pm). Admission £2.50. Good pots are available from S & B Evans, 7a Ezra St (just off Columbia Rd) London £2 7RH, open Fridays (9am-5pm) and Sundays (9am-1.30pm). Other times by appointment, call 0171-729 6635.



Oshorne House, Queen Victoria's beloved home on the Isle of Wight, is open tomorrow (10am-opm) in aid of the National Gardens Scheme. The terraced gardens sweep down to the sea, east of Cowes, and are decorated in the Renaissance manner with wildly ornate fountains and statues. The garden made for Victoria's brood of children surrounds a Swiss

cottage. Admission (gardens only) £3.50, house and garden £6.

with the lime helichrysum.

shade than in sun, when it tends to scorch.

thought for containers, but Paul Williams

uses them brilliantly. He's particularly

species with long, slender trailing stems, and lopsided bright green leaves, often veined with red. The flowers are small, but

they are produced in hanging bunches, the same smudgy, chalky shade of apricot

orange as the mimulus. Both look good

Begonias are not most people's first

At the Orangery, Kenwood, another English Heritage property, you can listen to poetry and music tomorrow, as part of a celebration. The Glories of the Garden, which starts at 7.30pm. Tickets (£7-14) from Ticketmaster on 0171-413 1443.

Water-storing polymers have proved their worth over the last couple of blazing, dry summers. You mix them with compost and they hang on to water better than the best-trained camel. Available from Greenacres Horticultural Supplies, PO Box 1228, Iver, Bucks (01895 835235), price £4.20 for 12g or £7 for 250g.

#### Weekend work If you lose control of weeds now, you will

not eatch up for the rest of the season. Do some determined slaughtering amongst the groundsel (already in flower and planning a population explosion), speedwell and dandelion tribes. Keep a small handspray of herbicide on the go (Roundup is the one I favour as it does least harm to the soil) to zap bindweed. This has just started a stealthy takeover bid among the soft fruit.

The dry April has held back much seedsowing, especially of hardy annuals which I had hoped to sow direct. Instead they are beginning life in the more comfortable environs of the kitchen window sill. Prick out seedlings as soon as they are big enough to handle, setting them up to their necks in seed trays of fresh compost. But Escholzia lobbii 'Moonlight' (Mr Fothergill 95p) is being sown direct into the newly

damp soil. Mulch furiously with whatever you can get hold of. This is your best insurance against drought. It also improves soil structure. I am a mulch-bore, but do not apol-

gise for it. There is always controversy over whether or not you can use lawn mowings as a mulch. Since we use no chemicals on the lawn, our mowings are tipped straight on to the soft-fruit patch and spread between the currant and gooseberry bushes. I think they do a good job. The disadvantage is that any mulch encourages bindweed.

Continue to keep an eye on clematis shoots which are growing with staggering vigour. Keep them fanned out to avoid them tangling with each other in a bunch. Clematis like cool feet and warm heads. A thick mulch (here we go again) or a slab of stone on top of the earth will help to keep the roots cool.

Sow sweetcorn if you have a warm, sheltered spot outside, setting the seeds in a square block about 18in apart each way. Plant out celery in trenches. They like rich rations, so under the trench there should be lashings of muck. They will also need a great deal of water.

Anna Pavord

## gardening



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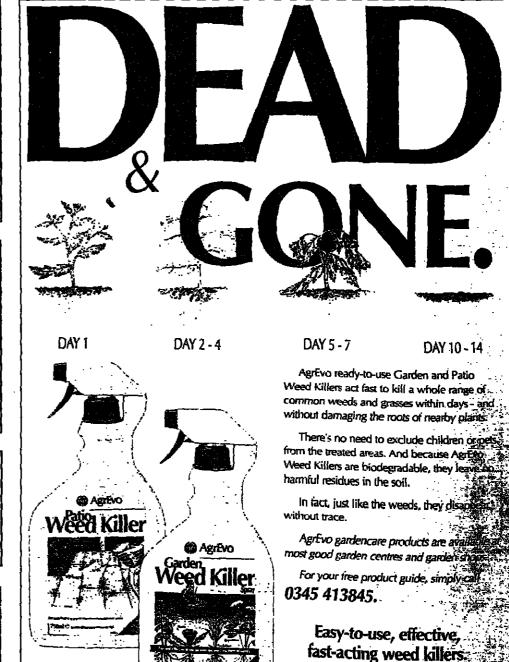
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# Little to grouse about

c drove out through ancient pinewoood made magical by a slow and wintry dawn. Fresh snow had coated the heather with silver, and through the black canopy of the forest the foothills of the Cairngorms gleamed like smooth, white pillows as they climbed away towards a leaden sky. No matter that reveille on Thursday had

been at 4am. Nothing could damp the anticipation of 30-odd visitors who sallied forth at first light into the 32,000 acres of the Abernethy Forest Reserve on Speyside. Guests of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, we set off in small parties heading for 12 separate leks - the open spaces on which black grouse congregate to conduct their arcane mating rituals.

In command of my group was Desmond Dugan, one of the RSPB rangers. As he drove, he described how the blackcocks take up position on grassy patches to display to their females, the greyhens.

Leaving the Land-Rover, we ploughed through snow-crusted heather to a vantage-point under some pines - and there than four times the number recorded at below us business was in full swing. Desmond called the flat area a "green" but the return of winter had made it a trast with developments elsewhere. In was no chance of any natural regeneration, exclude deer from new plantations are a "white", and on that pale background 28 every other part of their range, in Wales, The RSPB therefore took the controverhefty black birds showed up perfectly. The northern England and Scotland, sial step of carrying out a drastic cull. alpha, or dominant, cocks were occupying centre stage, as younger birds manoeuvred for position further out.

With scarlet wattles above the eyes, lyre-shaped tails curling outwards at the end, and patches of snowy white feathers selves. Strutting, posturing, puffing out the air-sacs in their chests, fluffing up their tailcoverts, they threw dignity to the winds in their efforts to impress potential wives.

Of these, there was scarcely a sign. We felt sure plenty were watching from round about, but we saw only one. Maybe some had been mated already. Maybe it was just too cold for the rest. As Desmond remarked, "Who'd take their trousers down on a morning as cold as this?"
For this Woodland Grouse Manage

ment Day arranged by the RSPB, landowners and lairds, farmers, foresters, scientists, bird specialists and others had gathered from far and wide. And by the time we returned to the lodge at 7.30am, we were much impressed. The total of blackcocks seen amounted to 190 - more the first surveys here in 1989.

This rosy picture presents a sharp con-



Throwing dignity to the winds: black grouse congregate to conduct their arcane mating rituals

#### **Country:** Radical action, including the splashed about their anatomy, the big fellows were indisputably handsome - but they weren't half making fools of themethey weren't half culling of deer, has ensured that Speyside, reports Duff Hart-Davis

more than 50 per cent during the past of the forest are creeping outwards on to seven years. Yet on the Abernethy reserve the flanks of the hills. During the same there are now more birds than on all the other 17 sporting estates in the region.

The success is due to the enlightened policy developed by the RSPB over the past 20 years. In buying the estate, the Society's aim was to conserve and if possible expand one of the surviving remnants of the Caledonian forest, which once covered much of the Highlands. Conservation of the forest would, it was hoped, ensure the well-being of its key bird species - among them capercaillie, black grouse, Scottish crossbill and crested tit.

The main threat to the trees came from red deer, which were browsing off seedlings with such efficiency that there

period, the ground vegetation has become more lush, providing better habitat for black grouse and caper. In many places the heather and bilberry are two feet deep.

Unlike red grouse, which live on open heather moors, black grouse are birds of the moorland and woodland edge, and thrive in a mixture of tree cover and open glades. Adults eat tree-buds and shoots of heather, but in the first few weeks of life their chicks need a high proportion of protein in the form of insects. This makes blaeberry bushes, which harbour caterpillars and other invertebrates, especially valuable.

Another fact established by recent research is that the wire fences built to

iments have shown that fatal collisions are much reduced if wires are decorated with orange netting to make them more visible. But the best expedient is to remove the fences altogether.

This is what the RSPB has done at Abernethy. In the past few years 25 miles of two-metre-high fences have been ripped out, and it seems certain that the elimination of this major hazard has helped the blackgame recover.

For the past century at least, sporting considerations have been paramount in many parts of the Highlands: deer and deer-stalking have come first, trees a poor second. Now other famous forests -Rothiemurcus, Mar Lodge, Glenfeshie - are going down the Abernethy road, reducing deer numbers and removing fences. In none of these places is the aim to exterminate the deer; rather, the plan is to maintain smaller herds, and to give the trees priority. This dynamic shift of policy should certainly benefit woodland grouse over a wide area - especially if the ideas and methods discussed at Abernethy on Thursday are exported into other estates.

major cause of mortality among both the results obtained by the RSPB so far, grouse and caper, we saw red grouse, sevblack grouse and caper. Birds are partic- and outlined possible future conservation eral hundred red deer, golden eagles, blackgame are declining or barely hold— The resulting changes have been spec-ing their own. In Perthshire, their tradi-tradiance tradiance their control to the control t tional stronghold, numbers have fallen by viving by the thousand, so that the edges down to feeding or lekking areas. Exper- ogy, emphasised the precarious state of imagine that we had a pretty good day.

PHOTOGRAPHS: DESMOND DUGAN the capercaillie population in Scotland as

Most people believe that capers became extinct in Scotland during the 18th century; other specialists feel sure that a few birds survived. Either way, fresh stocks were introduced from Scandinavia to Tayside in 1837; and after a slow build-up, they flourished so strongly in eastern Scotland that by the 1920s they were regarded as a menace to forestry.

Until the 1970s they continued to do well, but in the past 10 years they have gone into steep decline, numbers falling from 20,000 to barely a tenth of that. Through catching poults and fitting them with radios, scientists have discovered that young adult caper cover astonishing distances, apparently in search of somewhere to live. Hens, especially, may

travel up to 20 miles from their place of

birth, and this makes it clear that future

schemes for habitat management will

have to cover very large areas. By the time we dispersed from Abernethy on Thursday, everyone had become infected by the enthusiasm with which the RSPB rangers spoke of their charges. If After our early foray, experts analysed you throw in the fact that, besides black

# In the shadow of Mount Snowdon

While tourists flock to the highest peak in Wales, progress is killing the communities that live there. Roger Dobson reports

Sam Roberts and Snow-donia folk call the tiny piles of grey dust on the Liverpool and further afield. before being swept away by the relentless winds are the mortheir ashes scattered here.

"And why not indeed? I cannot think of a better place to be trot past. laid to rest," says Sam, a Snowdon warden who has walked these hills as man and boy.

Further along the craggy stone ridge are two small, wind-torn bunches of fading his death some years ago. Hundreds of feet below this

poignant reminder of how sides to this community in the dangerous Snowdon can be clouds.

summit the summer snow. In a lay-by far beneath the These small heaps which rest peaks, they queue for service briefly on the bare rocks at a convoy of ice-cream vans and cold drinks vendors. Across the road, some mountal remains of climbers, walkers and other visitors who fell in love with Snowdon and whose last wish was to have tain bikers are getting ready, and a group of fell runners make their final preparations.

Cars with hang-gliders strapped to roofs are arriving, and half a dozen pony trekkers

For most of the 500,000 annual visitors like these to Snowdon, the highest point in England and Wales, the mountain and its foothills are a vast leisure park for recreation, flowers, an offering to mark enjoyment, walking and sight-the spot where a climber fell to: seeing. But behind the pictureseeing. But behind the picture-postcard images of Snowdonia there are hidden and darker

like Deiniolen which is wrestling with the problems of poverty and unemployment. And nestling in the folds of the hills are more communities devastated by the high unemployment that came with the closure of slate mines that were once the biggest in the world, employing up to 3,000 men each. These communities are also plagued by the problems of their young who have to move away from these Welsh-speaking heartlands to get work and

a home of their own. Away from the six tourist trails that converge on the summit like motorways on a city, there are the hard lives of all right.

"We do get a lot of visitors"

"We do get a lot of visitors" Lewis, whose family have kept sheep on Cadair Idris for more than a century. His daily life is a series of battles against

weather, walkers and wardens. This hidden side of Snowdonia has been captured on film by Graham Johnston for a six-part BBC2 documentary which takes a look at the area through the eyes of the people who live and work there - and who cope with day-to-day problems that are unseen by the hordes of tourists.

It is not just as a warden that Sam Roberts is passionate about his mountain. "I look on her as a fine lady who is often mistreated by all these people who walk all over her without being really invited. The lady is letting you enjoy her company for a while and if you

and people do complain that the roads get blocked with cars and people. What I say to them is that we are fortunate enough to live in paradise for 365 days a year, surely we can put up with these people coming here for just a few weeks a

year.
"I have a sadness for people who cannot appreciate such beauty - and a sadness, too, for the loss of life that occurs and which is a constant reminder of how ruthless the mountain can be if you don't respect her."

Denise Williams, meanwhile, is bringing her family up in Deiniolen, a community that has suffered with the loss of slate mining and two thirds of its population are without

a job.
"We are forgotten about; we lead nowhere. Villages that are in the tourist areas get everything, we don't get a thing. There is nothing here any more - people don't want to live here. The High Street is like a slum," she says.

Behind the picture postcard image of Snowdon is a community plagued by problems

Older people in the village, which is littered with boardedup shops, recall the prosperous

days of full employment. "Everything was orderly in those days," says one former slate miner. "On Monday the wife used to wash all the dirty clothes; Tuesday was drying day and a time for baking loaves; on Wednesday there was all the ironing, and on Thursday they would be doing the cakes for Sunday, with apple tarts and wineber-

ries. Every day was something special." The area has attracted its

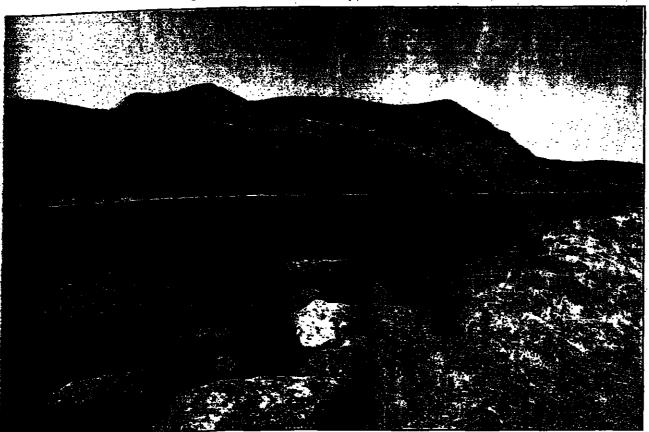
share of incomers, too. Clyde Holmes has lived in the remote Cwm Hesgyn valley for 25 years. "It is wonderful to bring a

family up here. Children always appreciate a certain amount of freedom generally and that is what they had here. The usual stresses and strains don't appear so much. As they get older, of course, the chil-

dren want to widen their horizons and in their teens it is not so ideal."

Clyde has spent years painting different views of the remote valley. "Look at the mountains, how eternal they are. We humans are just a pinprick really. When you live here there is a sense that everything around you will always be here."

'Visions of Snowdonia' begins on BBC2, Friday 16 May at 8pm



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# all consuming

From AbFab to FabLab, the new style council .. 20 Under the Counter .....20 The new Corsa, the old heroes: motoring......20

Wit, brevity and surrealism the ingredients of a good spot cartoon. John Windsor hopes to find the lot at Cartoon 97

new ingredient is being added to newspaper and magazine cartoons - laughter. While the local published by the Independent, Punch and Private Eye, among others, gags about family stereotypes or women - women drivers, even New Women - are now beyond the pale.

They have been ousted by lifestyle jokes, often with a surreal flavour. Take, for even here we have been ousted by lifestyle jokes, often with a surreal flavour. Take, for even here we have been ousted by lifestyle jokes, often with a surreal flavour. Take, become spicier and funnier.

The election saw a turgid landslide of at bay. The tired images seemed to be vying for cominess.

By contrast, the spot gags were a refreshing giggle – lighter, wittier, even when politically tinged. Adam Singleton in this week's Spectator drew a gag of a couple waking up in hed the morning after the election, captioned, "Did the landslide for you?" It said more with less ink.

Spot gags come into their own on Sunday 18 May at Chelsea Town Hall with Cartoon 97, a cartoon fair "for adults and children only", the first of its kind. Organised by the founders of the quarterly ribtickler The Journal of Silly ~ cartoonists Ham Khan ("Ham"), and Duncan McCoshan ("Kerber") - its aim is to make you laugh.

About 50 leading cartoonists and dealers will be displaying their gags for sale (from £25), doing portrait caricatures (from £5) and selling old cartoons (a Heath Robinson could cost you £2,000). as well as showing how it's done in cartoon workshops, lecturing and submitting themselves for interview. There will also be a screened interview with the celebrated Ralph Steadman.

If the new wave of funnies has not yet tickled you, cast your mind back, for comparison, to the cringe-making spot gags that were daily fodder in popular tabloid newspapers right into the Eighties. Gags such as: Wife to hen-pecked husband in a pub har, "You've had enough - you're beginning to answer me back". Were they ever funny?

According to Ham, whose work is published by the *Independent*, Punch and

for example, Ham's captionless drawing of a father suckling his baby through feednewspaper editorial cartoons showing
John Major in extremis – shipwrecked, or
on the edge of a precipice, or like a stag

ing bottles strapped to his chest – a
striking, eloquent image that is still very
silly. (New Men, it seems, are still fair game for cartoonists.)

Two surrealist time-bombs are responsible for the trend. One is Edward McLachlan's nightmarish car-squashing hedgehogs, which first lumbered into print in Private Eye as long ago as 1971. It was McLachlan, 57, who, after yet another dismal Test defeat, drew an England cricketer, begging on a street corner, being thrown a coin - and dropping it. You'll find nothing as comic

as that on editorial pages.

The other surrealist is the American Gary Larson, whose The Far Side spot gag series made its UK debut in the Evening Standard in 1986. His forté is juxtaposing silly humans with know-all animals. Example: two old women observe a man-sized spider at their window, "Calm down Edna... yes, it's some giant hideous insect... but it could be some giant hideous insect in need of help".

Of course, there's nothing really new where jokes are concerned. Steve Way. cartoonist and cartoon editor of Punch, who looks forward to meeting embittered amateur cartoonists at his question-andanswer session at the fair, points out that the surreal hippopotamus gag - one hippo to the other. "I keep thinking it's Tuesday" first appeared in Punch in the Thirties.

For the record, he looks for cartoons that are "edgy and topical". Such as, presumably. Jackson's in this week's issue, showing Pooh, holding a Virgin balloon, looking at a slit circled by bees high up a tree trunk. The slit is unmistakeably

of sheer satin against your skin. Experience a louch of distinction

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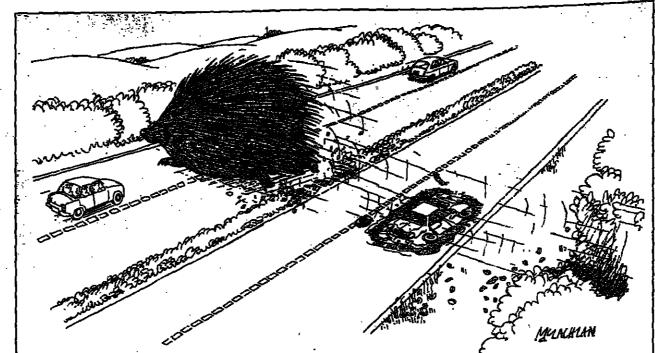
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Surrealist time-bombs: Edward McLachlan's car-squashing hedgehogs (left) set a trend for the founders of the Journal of Silly, Ham (above and below left) and Kerber (below left)

# Good for a laugh



she thought she heard a lawranower

anatomical, and piglet is saying: "Face it, the Independent, has a "Samuraitans" Pooh - you're never going to get that honey". It's very, very rude.

advice-giver, in appropriate Oriental costume, urging, "Go and kill yourself". The new wave has thrown up some fresh topics that look to become as ever-

green as the cartoonists' desert island. One is the advice centre or the in-store information desk - natural flashpoints for the latent rage in consumer society. Kerber, who draws "Damien Hurts" in

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I prefer a version in Hustler, to which my attention has been drawn, in which the crew-cropped consultant on the Sodomy Information Hot-Line advises: "Stick it up your ass!". It's simpler and the twist is more unexpected.

The Samuraitans gag illustrates a foible

Education

Your Computer is Your

of the new wave: the contrived pun.

Simon Ellinas in The Journal of Silly has a man in a stetson with the speech bubble, "Hic! Pardon me!" The caption? "Wild Bill Hiccup". At least it's silly.

Michael Heath, the Speciator's cartoon editor, is the most prolific of cartoonists:

he can't be bothered to sell his published artwork, and once put an armful of his original cartoons in a rummage box at the

The stresses and

Health & Leisure

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ultra-witty, late-lamented Mel Calman's London cartoon gallery, with a notice say-ing "Please take one". He will open the fair, which is supported by the Cartoon Art Trust founded by Calman, and the Cartoonists' Club of Great Britain.

He will have no truck with bleatings about new waves or surrealism, "You mean 'whimsy', don't you?" he says: "All I see is cartoonists flapping about trying to make a living".

Political cartoons? "The whole thing's a mess, it's cobblers. They say it's going madly satirical. Rubbish. It's just ugly. Worms coming out of John Major's nose, that sort of thing. There's no thought behind it". But he has spotted some new young spot-gaggers: Adam Singleton (the landslide morning-after gag) and Robert Thompson, who contributed "King's Road rage" to the current issue of Silly two fashionable women in a tug-of-war over a pair of slacks.

As for his own work, Heath says: "I have to dream up things all over again Such as his Labour Ladies series in the Daily Telegraph. One of them has been griping that the minimum-wage policy will force her to sack her nanny. A servant joke! It's what we've all been waiting for.

Cartoon 97: Chelsea Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3, Sunday 18 May (10am-5pm) entry £1 (0181-900 2614 or 0181-341 9874).

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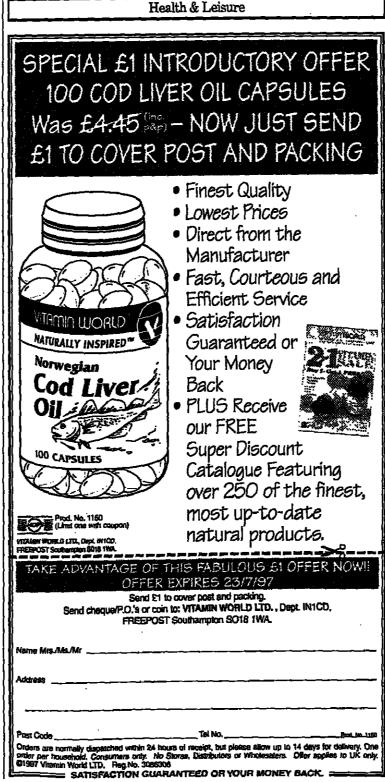
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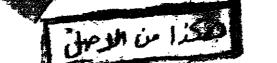
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# Lasy to wear, easy to buy



In the Eighties their hats were notorious. In the Nineties, **Bernstock Spiers** are back, having



reinvented themselves as designers of laidback clothes for modern women. By Melanie Rickey. Illustrations by Thelma Spiers

became notorious in the Eighties. They were worn by French and Saunders, Miranda Richardson, Jimmy Somerville, Jane Asher, Bananarama and Joseph Ettedgui (with whom they posed in seasonal world from New York to Tokyo.

Their business began as an accident in 1982, just after the duo cushions, rails of clothes sus-graduated from the RCA. Jeff Banks (founder of the Warehouse tain poles on pulleys. chain) saw Thelma out shopping in a hat she had made for herself using car spray-paint and straw. He ordered hundreds - and the shown two years ago, was a cappair worked frantically to finish the sule range of fluid silk/jersey and order. However, it wasn't until Joseph Ettedgui, the great diviner of British design talent in the Eighties, ordered hats over the cloakroom counter of their cult

we told our friends we were to designing clothes, they thought we were mad," says Paul, as cloakroom counter of their cult

Thelma intercepts: "But we've Piccadilly nightclub, "White never been into fashion to make Trash", that a design duo was

have been known primarily as and Thelma have never stopped milliners but they are also acces- having a good time, and the shop sories designers, club promoters, is an extension of their sociabil-stylists and fashion merchandisers. ity, as customers pop in for tea In 1995, they became fashion designers, and only last week Paul and Thelma entered a new phase - as retailers. TEN is the name of their first shop. It is conveniently located beneath their respective flats in Columbia Road, home to London's well-known Sunday morning flower market.

On a weekday morning, Columbia Road is virtually unrecognis-able from the hustle and bustle of Thelma and Paul cite American

aul Bernstock and Thelma the Sunday market. Instead of Spiers are the longest sur-hollering market traders, the eerily viving partnership in British fashion. You may remember the hats for which they became notorious in the Eighties. The first Sunday we opened I saw my street in a totally different way - huge trees and shrubs bobbed past the windows all morning," says Thelma who has lived above the shop for catalogues), and sold across the nine years. The shop is typically East End: old wooden floors; brocade couches covered in comfy

Their clothes, they say, have been awaiting realisation for some time. The first collection, glazed cotton separates. "When we told our friends we were a million. We're passionate about it and we want to enjoy it." A Since then, Bernstock Spiers cliché, but an accurate one. Paul

> and a chat as well as to shop. Their current collection is based around a simple but effective idea. Most of the clothes (primarily for women, with a few token unisex pieces), are made from Airtex, a staple of school sportswear, and a favourite of Austrian designer Helmut Lang. The colourful range is pull-on, washable, uncreaseable,



ing on different things," says
Thelma. "She tried the bright pink one-

shoulder dress with orange elbow length gloves; she layered slip dresses over trousers and wrapped could be worn in several ways and things around her middle - she in different situations. Their range looked fab, and then she left." Luckily Corinne only left to get reflects this easy-dressing concept. some money and a couple of friends. She bought a bag-full of (Kamali is also regarded by many as the innovator of easy dressing, clothes to wear on tour and vowed she would be back again. using bodysuits and unitards before Donna Karan had thought

The clothes are refreshingly Just after the shop opened last easy to wear, and are not just for

spent three hours in the shop try- to gather a summer wardrobe in

two interchangeable holiday out- T-shirt dress, £80; elbow fits for under £200," says Paul. There are also some very fashion- Blue and purple slip conscious pieces, such as boob tubes, slip skirts, and strapless Yellow and pink short T-shirt dresses. There are even coordi- dress, £60 nating "fag bags". "Every girl needs one of these when they're out," says Thelma.

Bernstock Spiers currently make their clothes at the back of the shop, so alterations and unusual size requests are not out of the

"You can come here and buy Long three-colour Airtex length gloves, £25

TEN, Columbia Road, London E2. Inquiries, tel: 0171-729 7229; fax: 0171-613 1317. Opening hours: week, Corinne, singer with Swing skinny waifs. They are sporty, question Neither is a long trying- Monday-Friday, 12 noon-7pm. Sat-Out Sister, appeared in TEN. "She womanly and are the perfect way on session and a quick cup of tea. urday, closed. Sunday, 11am-3pm.



## **AD WATCH**

FRANCE

## Gossard supports Girl Power



hey're a shameless lot at adverts, photographed by Herb. Gossard Not content with shocking various maiden aunts and newspaper columnists with their advertisement last year, which said Who says a woman can't get pleasure from something soft", they're at it again with another campaign every bit as suggestive. Once again the shapely form of Sophie Anderton will be challenging us from the boardings, but this time, you will be surprised to learn, the

Last year's ad campaign for their Glossy underwear described as "smooth, seamless softwear designed to create a glamorous nude look underneath summer clothes" caused a moral outcry, and a record number of complaints (321) to the Advertising Standards Authority, none of which were upheld. The ASA later found out that the majority of complaints came from women who had, in fact, never seen the ads, and had been encouraged to write in by an outraged chest I'll get a man". It pronewspaper columnist. The

Ritts (who doesn't know how to take an unsexy picture), boosted the modelling career of Sophie Anderton who sprawled in the hay with her arms flung back and lips slightly parted, along with the now famous slogan. The ads increased sales of the Glossies range by 200 per cent and sadly catapulted Anderton onto our TV screens as the rather wooden presenter of Channel 4's fashion magazine

programme "Desire". The Glossies advert, (above) which will be plastered across London from next Wednesday has been masterminded by the same ad agency Abbott Mead Vickers, but this time a tamer has been used. Anderton is wearing the same bra and knickers she posed in last year (doesn't she ever change them?) but this time our hero-ine is facing her public head on. This time the slogan reads: "If I want something rough on my vokes the kind of laughter twenties (the age group who

reserved exclusively for girlie in-jokes - a low conspiratorial chuckle - and won't cause any feminist debate.

Sue Chidler, Marketing Manager at Gossard is very pleased with the new ad campaign: "The model isn't prone. We wanted to concentrate on her eyes and show the advert as a shared joke between women. In fairness, when looking at the first advert which broke last June (just as The Spice Girls were polishing off the dance routine for Wannabe) the eyes were drawn to the body of the model. This time "eye contact" is estab-

"During our research women responded very well, they saw the fun-side, and felt it reflected a humorous view on life," continues Chidler. In fact, Gossard and their creative team at Abbott Mead Vickers have tapped into Girl-Power, and are using it as an effective and provocative marketing

Women in their mid to late

bay. Women can wear whatever they wish in modern Nineties Britain without repercussion, and they can also wear a see-through bra for their own enjoyment and comfort (because it looks good and feels soft on the skin). This is Sue Garrard, Board Director at AMV, is part of the creative team behind this advert.

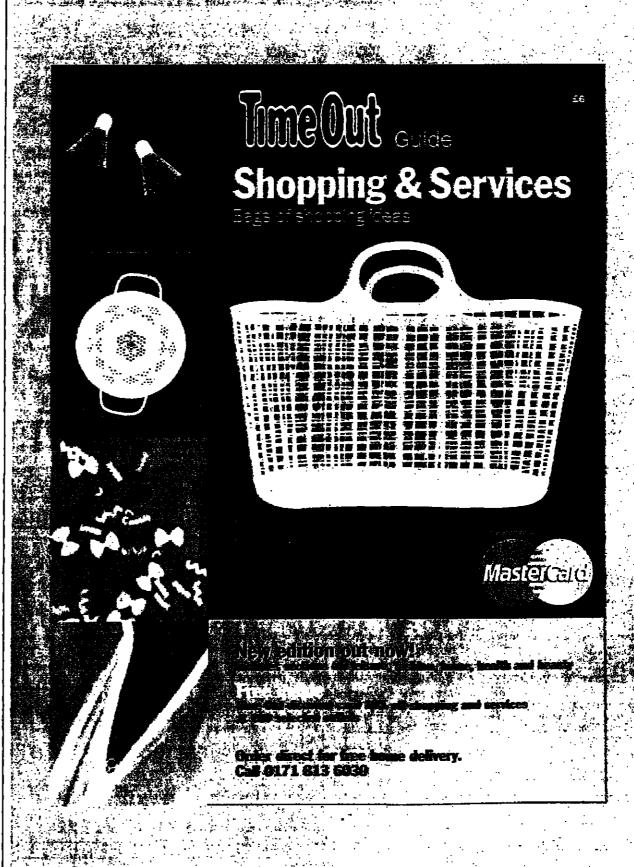
buy the most "fashion" bras)

have never had to dress like

dowdy spinsters to keep men at

"If you are given a lingerie brand, you show the lingerie don't you? When we asked women if they are offended by the ads they say 'No'. That's all we need," she says. Men will of course he looking at Andercourse be looking at Anderton's nipples, but men are men, what else can they do? They won't be wearing the bra, or the knickers, but they will be buying them for their partners, which is ultimately the purpose of advertising. To shift product and make bundles of

Melanie Rickey



# From AbFab to Lab Fab

Out with the indulgent old bourgeoisie - in with, um, the Islington set. Grabbing a table at Granita and drizzling the ciabatta is only half the story, as outlined by Jane Furnival

t used to be an AbFab world of Bollinger, bad behaviour and bawdiness. Now we have New Labour, New Style – otherwise known as LabFab. It's a quieter, more decrous, more scrubben sort of a world.

It's a world that starts with ... a move

● A house next to the Blairs in Richmond Crescent costs around £350,000 and comes complete with ready-fitted celeb-neighbours such as Clive Anderson and Stephen Fry. For £300,000, you can buy a similar Georgian number in nearby Northfields Terrace. Trendy estate agents are Hotblack Desiato (314 Upper St, 0171-226 0160), who inspired LabFabtype Douglas Adams to use their name for a rock singer in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. For a mere £237,500, you can buy a penthouse apartment opposite Essex Road BR station (Dizzy Heights:

 Don't bother equipping your LabFab home with antiques - anything really good would be ruined by the kids. Look instead for witty accessories from After Noah (121 Upper St), like a plastic vase that you stick on to the window. And for all those necessary ties, try storing them in old chemists' drawers from Number Nineteen, Camden Passage (0171-226 1991).

Have lots of parties and invite Salman Have lots of parties and invite Salman Rushdie, Dr Jonathan Miller, John Birt and Melvyn Bragg, Kathy Lette and any architect. Or just drop their names in dinner-party conversation. Judging by her book, the conversation of PR-turnedguru Lynne Franks, who inspired the character of AbFab's Edina, is littered with famous names and New Age therapies. • Sit around a large, friendly antique fruitwood kitchen table, purchased for £750, also from After Noah.

 Mix style with a social conscience. Wear Swatches, not Rolexes. Don't wear expensive necklaces because ostentatious wealth encourages envy, social division



and muggers. Fun jewellery is fine. Cherie has been seen wearing a brooch that looks

like a bug has settled on her lapel with matching baby beetles on her ears, bought from Steinberg and Tolkein (193 King's Road, 0171-376 3660).

● Drive a people carrier. It will prove you are caring. Instead of spending £29,000 on a Range Rover, spend the same amount on an unpretentious Ford Galaxy.

Chips are out; ciabatta is in. LabFab

don't cook in fat; they drizzle with olive oil. Take any combination of sundried tomatoes, walnut bread and obscure, bitter salad leaves. The River Café Cookbook is the LabFab food bible.

 Send out for upmarket takeaways: marinated chargrilled vegetables or guinea fowl at about £3.50 a head from Limoncello, the right-on takeaway deli at 402 St John's Street, ECI (0171-713 1678). Otherwise, try an old local corner shop -



A galaxy of new taste: from the people mover to the white shirts and Cherie's collection of shoes

Olga's Stores of 30 Pentonville Street (0171-837 5467), or muffins from the Canadian Muffin Company at 13 Islington High Street (0171-833 5004). Basic food shopping can be done on Sundays from Waitrose in Holloway Road, conveniently close to the Blairs' Catholic church - St Joan of Arc. Here, after mass, LabFabs load their people carriers with vegetable crisps and Antonio Carluccio's squid ink pasta at £3.35 a packet (dried pasta is trendier than fresh again).

• Alcohol is treated with respect. Wine must be good (never chardonnay). Beer is Rolling Rock (despite the penchant for it by the new Minister for Sport. Tony Bank). Water is San Pelligrino. Tea is either Indian, known jocularly as "workers", or herbal. Coffee is Lavazza.

• Eat out a lot, but only where you're great pals with the restaurant owner. Islington people favour Clerkenwell.



Stephen Bull's brasserie in St John's Street (0171-490 1750) serves seared swordfish and has tables on so many different levels, darling. Tony prefers suppers of sun-dried tomatoes or monkfish on a bed of humous at minimalist Islington restaurant Granita (127 Upper Street, 0171-226 3222). Cherie had her birthday party at Frederick's (Camden Passage, 0171-359 2888) whose menu includes a Blair special called crispy red mullet salad with aubergine caviare (£14). • Flowers: LabFab people like blooms all of a single type by Paula Pryke, the former teacher who shot to fame doing Terence Conran's flowers in style restaurant Quaglino's. A dozen red roses with foliage cost £50 including Downing Street delivery. 20 Penton Street, N1 (0171-837 7336). • You're allowed to be fascinated by fashion. Cherie has already augmented her 50 pairs of shoes by ordering two

pairs of Winter boots from Emma Hope's Shoes, (33 Amwell Street, EC1 –0171-833 2367). She has ordered 2 1/2 inch-heel Vamp Boots, with a zip, at £229 and a second lower-heeled pair. Handbags are plain black and brown leather – one of each colour at £299

 Wear made-to-measure Savile Row suits if a man. Unlike linen jackets, they stand up well to car journeys and flights.
Off duty, wear chines and an open top shirt. On duty, wear a white shirt. It sym-

bolises leadership.

o'If a woman, don't wear suits. Wear things that look like suits and call them tailored separates", which sounds iess Chanel and more M&S. Cherie buys the Chanel and more M&S. Cherie buys the ready-to-wear collection of LabFab stals wart Ronit Ziikha, who made the £450 rose-coloured suit she wore to the Palace on the morning after the election. 70 Hampstead High Street, NWF, mail order possible (0171-431 0253).

• Leave big hair to Hezza and hats to Tory ladies. Go for short, slick styles by Louise at Sessions, 5 Theberton Street, Islington (0171-704 9777), who will also lacquer your toe-nails for those all-

lacquer your toe-nails for those allimportant early-morning doorstep encounters with the paparazzi. For serious makeovers, try the salon of hair colouring whizz Jo Hansford (Mount Street, Mayfair, 0171-495 7774).

• LabFlab is out. Cherie lost weight discreetly after facing the cameras, unforced the salon of hair colouring with the cameras, unforced the salon of hair colouring white salon of hair

creetly after facing the cameras' unforgiving eyes. She visits a gym three times giving eyes. She visits a gym three times a week and has a personal trainer, nanny and cleaner, but they're never in photo range. Try Sequin Park, 240 Upper St, N1. 0171-704 9844. Membership: £350.

Membership: £350.

• Any problems? Try The Life Centre, 15 Edge Street, W8 (0171-221 4602).or buy lots of aromatherapy stress cures in blue bottles from the Neal's Yard Natural Remedies (68 Chalk Farm Road, NW1, 0171-284 2039).

## Under the counter with Lindsay Calder

The Season" is under way, and, according to my Veuve Clicquot guide to "The Season" (a smart little freebie which just fits in a mini Filofax), May goes something like this: the Royal Caledonian Ball, Grosvenor House Hotel; the 2000 Guineas, Newmarket; the Badminton Horse Trials; Glyndebourne: and the Chelsea Flower Show. But there is a vital omission, which, nestling in between Newmarket and Badminton, is an annual must for me. Royal Ascot (17-20 June) is small beer compared to this event. You want hats? Well, get tickets now for next year's rugby league

TEL: 0171 293 2222

showpiece, the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

A summary of rugby league for the uninitiated: two teams sort of lunge at each other trying to get the ball, then one guy runs very fast and throws himself head first into a corner (four points), then, another guy tries to kick it through two white posts (additional two points if successful). As with all events of The Season, you don't just go to watch the game - it's more of an all-over body experience.

First you need to know who you are supporting. As I was going with Wilbur, Fergal, John and Sue - all fierce Wiganites - we couldn't support tulle tutus, silver tiaras and white fish-

the Bradford Bulls, which meant chanting "Come on ye Bu-ulls," rather than "Come on ye Saints," and cheering for the ones in red, black and yellow. The Bulls supporters also had the best outfits. The ladies' hats were spectacular, bull-horn helmets and red wigs, complemented by Bulls kit shirts and, for the really dedicated, a full make-over: facial team colours, f4, from the face-painting stand outside the ground. But it is the variety of dresses worn that make this event so outstanding. A party in front of me

were immaculately dressed in white

had popper-fastening gussets as, by the amount of lager they were consuming, the lads wearing them were going to have trouble at half time.

You can make yourself look exceptionally ugly if you go the whole hog, or even the whole bull. One teenage girl had not only painted her entire face, but had dyed her hair red, black and yellow as well. Yet a trip to watch the Bulls can be made with relatively subtle accessorising - a Bulls horns hairband or a big sponge wavy hand

Entertainment is big at rugby league. On my first year there we had

St Helens (arch rival) so it had to be net tights. I only hope that the tutus Cliff Richard singing to kick things off. was Diana Ross (again), but were told by the 13-year-old in our party that this was someone "new" in the charts. For real entertainment, you can't beat the life-size Bullman mascot. Forget an Andrex pup, I want a Bradford Bull I can have to stay. Get Bullish: For her, Bulls shell suit, £60, velvet hat with horns, £15.99; for him, studium jacket, £59.99, replica kit shirt, £39.50; for me, cuddly Bradford Bullman, £19. Bradford Bulls merchandise from 'The Bull Pen', Bradford Burger

3Sara Eden

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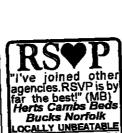


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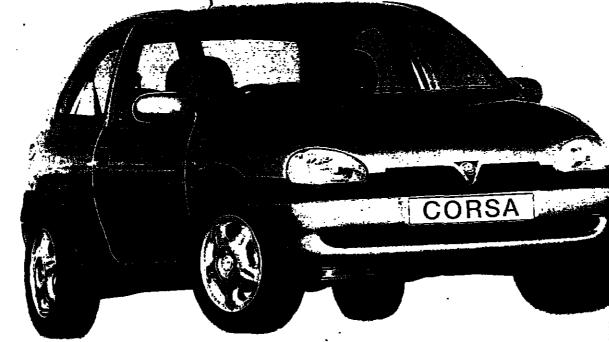
# Not quite a three-pot screamer

**ROAD TEST** Vauxhall Corsa By John Simister

his car looks familiar, but it makes a very strange noise. It's a curiously deep growl, wholly unexpected in a meek little supermini. The reason for the unusual soundtrack is that this new Vauxhall Corsa 1.0 is missing a cylinder, at least compared with its rivals. It has just three, instead of the usual four, and if you open the bonnet you'll see that this three-quarr engine is so small that it looks as though it should be powering a lawnmower, not a car.

There are, however, sound reasons for giving the hitherto wholly predictable and ultimately underwhelming Corsa an engine capable of becoming a conversation piece. With three cylinders instead of four, the engine's moving parts generate less friction because there are fewer of them. And because less heat is lost through fewer, bigger cylinders than through more, smaller ones, there's more energy left to propel the car. A threecylinder engine, then, has the potential to be very economical.

If this engine were indeed powering a lawnmower, it would be a hi-tech one. The motor is a masterpiece of minia-



12 valves, and an electronic control unit so small that it's built right into the intake manifold. Technophiles will love it; so should motorcyclists, whose favoured engines the Vauxhall's closely resembles.

But all this, I fear, may be lost on the average Corsa buyer. After all, to date the Corsa has not been a car to delight the driving enthusiast, despite its cute curves turisation, with tiny tappets to open the and an admirably ergonomic interior. chattels, without even a novice driver

Small cars are meant to be fun to drive, which means making them sharp and nippy, but Corsas have managed to be neither. Few small cars feel stodgier.

The reason for this is that Vauxhall has been bound by an engineering credo which calls for all its cars to be able to do an emergency lane-change manoeuvre at somewhere near its maximum speed while containing a full load of people and

losing control. Though well-intentioned, if patronising, this is not a recipe for an entertaining small car. To its credit, Vauxhall has finally woken up to this and has packed the Corsa off to Lotus for some suspension aerobics.

Lotus moved a pivot-point here, fiddled with some springs there, and banished the feeling of flab. So, after the surprise of the new engine's sound has abated, you can

incisively and rides over bumps better. It's no match here for a Ford Ka or the Peugeot 106/Citroen Saxo twins, but it's a big improvement. Soon there'll be a neat power-steering system available, too, which uses an electric motor attached to the steering column.

These improvements apply to the entire Corsa range, which includes 1.2, 1.4 and sporty 1.6-litre four cylinder versions, and some diesels, as well as the 1.0-litre three-cylinder. All are recognisable by a new front grille with a chrome V, as

well as detail changes to trim. But it's that tiny new engine that draws your interest the most. It's not powerful - just 55bhp - but it is smooth, willing and able to achieve much higher revs than its deep, almost Porsche 911-like engine note suggests.

The only real snag is that the secret of the smoothness, a heavy flywheel, makes the engine slow to lose speed between upward gear changes, so you have to be patient

to avoid a jerk. This encourages a laid-back driving style, which suits the meagre performance well. And if you get frustrated by the lack of pace, you can console yourself with the engine's remarkable economy. Driving it as fast and as hard as I could make the little Corsa go, I couldn't get it to travel fewer

than 39 miles on a gallon of petrol. So here, at last, is a Corsa with some of the personality its looks always promised. But before we get too carried away with the forward thinking of Vauxhall's General Motors parent, it's worth remembering that the Japanese have been building tiny three-cylinder engines

#### VAUXHALL CORSA STING

#### Specifications

Price: £8,400 on the road Engine: 973cc, three cylinders, 12 valves, 55bhp at 5,600rpm; five speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed, 93mph; 0-60mph in 17.6 sec. Fuel consumption: 45-49mpg

Citroen Saxo 1.1X, £8,195 OTR: Well-priced, comfortable and fun to drive. Same goes for the similar Peugeot 106 1.1 XL (£8,505 OTR). Flat Punto 55S, £7,622: Good value, distinctive looks but lacks refinement. Revised Punto comes

Ford Ka, £8,015 OTR: To look at, as radical as a Mini was back in 1959. To drive, pure entertainment. Best small car on offer today.

Nissan Micra 1.0 Shape, £7,995 OTR: Round and cuddly like the Corsa, but too Toytown for some. Volkswagen Polo 1\_0L £7,990 OTR: As slow as the Corsa, but bearable. Looks near, feels solid.

for years. It just goes to show that there's nothing new under the rising sun,

The new engine appears first in the Corsa Sting, a limited-edition model based on the entry-level Corsa Merit three-door but with three-spoke alloy wheels, a sunroof and metallic paint. Other trim levels will follow.

# The power and the glory

Grand Prix racing drivers of the Thirties diced with death in 580bhp beasts on skinny tyres over potholed circuits. Gavin Green recalls a British hero

racing drivers risk their lives, are youthful, and often good-looking (the main prerequisites for idolisation by the young), they are often venerated. My six-year-old son, for instance, adores Alfa Romeo team - run by Enzo Ferrari Damon Hill, as do many of his school

But for me the real racing heroes existed many decades earlier. None more so than the charming, handsome.
Rugby-then-Cambridge-educated Dick
Seaman, the greatest English racing star

They were awesome cars. In 1937, the
580bhp Mercedes GP cars were more
powerful than any Formula One car for of the Thirties. I certainly didn't idolise Seaman as a youngster: he'd been dead 20 years when I was born. In fact, I knew little about him until I read Racing The Silver Arrows by Chris Nixon, 10 years ago. It chronicled, in an entertaining yet erudite manner, the most fascinating of all periods in motor racing - the late Thirties.

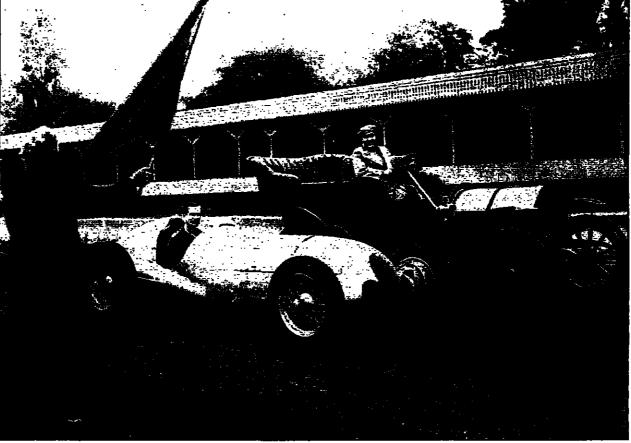
Seaman was then the English hero. The 6ft 3in blond Brit did a Jesse Owens to the local racing stars at the 1938 German GP winning in front of various seniorranking Nazis and more than 100,000 swastika-waving locals after German hero Manfred von Brauchitsch's car caught fire in the pits. Sure, he'd been driving a Mercedes. But, in those days, if you wanted to win, you drove German. Hitler saw stand for Parliament. They inadvertently

veryone needs heroes. And because motor racing as a way to prove German

- from the 1934 season onwards, and then proceeded to dice with each other for another five years before the inevitable world war brought the action to an end.

the next 50 years. And yet they drove around on spindly tyres, barely wider than bicycle rubber. They must have been impossibly difficult cars to control. Yet heroes such as Seaman, the German stars Rudi Caracciola, von Brauchitsch, Hans Stuck and Bernd Rosemeyer, and Italian drivers Nuvolari and Varzi (the latter an aristocratic morphine addict) mastered these monsters at speeds of more than 170mph on broken, rutted, narrow roads surrounded by trees and hedges and buildings, in pursuit of glory. Many died going about their business. It was a hazardous occupation, like being a fighter pilot was just a few years later.

Seaman had wealthy parents who hoped he'd study for the bar and possibly



bankrolled his early racing. But his father Nurburgring. died from a heart attack, mistakenly believing that his son had been killed in a race. His mother continued to resist young Seaman's death-defying attempts to be a racing champion.

By this time, he'd been noticed by the then-dominant Mercedes team. They offered him a drive. Like all German factory drivers, Seaman had to be approved by Hitler. Once approval was given, Seaman started to taste success. But his greatest win was in Germany when, against the odds and very much against plans, he upstaged the local heroes to score a victory at the world's

most challenging racing circuit, the

Not long before, he had met a German girl, Erica Popp, daughter of the president and co-founder of BMW. They were married at the end of 1938, to great resistance from Seaman's mother, who detested the idea of her son marrying a German - never mind that she was beautiful, educated and rich.

In mid-1939, with war imminent, Seaman was leading the Belgian Grand Prix at the fast and dangerous Spa circuit, when he crashed at high speed in the wet. His Mercedes hit a tree, which broke his arm. Then the car caught fire. The 26year-old Englishman was dragged from the blazing wreck by a brave young Belgian soldier, but he suffered awful

burns. The following day he died. He was buried in his father's grave at Putney Vale cemetery in south-west London. The entire Mercedes team attended, as did Erica and his mother, although there was no last-minute reconciliation. Hitler sent a huge laurel wreath, although it was not taken to the

For me, the period of racing is so intriguing because the cars were objects of such extraordinary beauty and power; Dick Seaman (centre) in his Mercedes, shortly before the 1939 Belgian Grand Prix in which he

PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

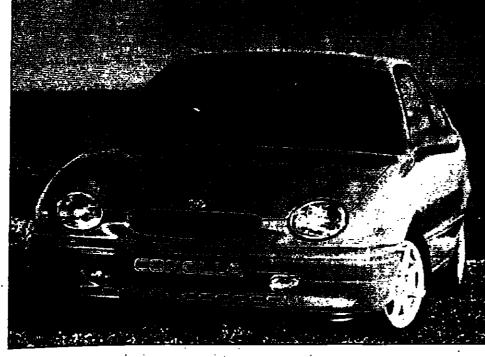
because of the political situation which so profoundly affected the lives of the drivers and their friends. It was also the start of the internationalisation of motor racing: the Mercedes and Auto Union teams performed around the world, from Europe to north Africa to the USA and South America.

Two things have recently rekindled my interest in Seaman, and the incredible Silver Arrows, as the Mercedes and Auto Union cars became known. The first is the re-issue of Chris Nixon's fascinating book. Second is news that Auto Union and Mercedes GP cars from the Thirties will thunder up the hillclimb course at this year's Festival of Speed at Goodwood. Hans Stuck's son, Hans Stuck Jnr, will drive an Auto Union. And Stirling Moss, just a boy when Seaman was killed, is likely to drive the same type of Mercedes in which Seaman enjoyed such success. It should be quite a spectacle, the stuff of which heroes are made.

Chris Nixon's book, 'Racing The Silver Arrows', is published by Transport Book-man, priced £39.95. The Goodwood Festival of Speed will be held at Goodwood House, West Sussex, from 20-22 June. the cast of characters is so fascinating, and Information and tickets 01243 787766

# a Euro

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TOYOTA HAS just unveiled a new Corolla especially designed for Europe. To be built at Toyota's factory near Derby from next year, the new European Corolla has a number of visual and mechanical changes compared with new Corolla models to be sold elsewhere. It's part of Toyota's drive to differentiate its models in world markets.

The new European Corollas, which go on sale this summer, feature unusual "insect eye" oval headlights and different grilles depending on the trim level, including a honeycomb design. Toyota reckons this helps give the European personality. In Europe, the Corolla has long been criticised for its styling dullness and lack of visual character. Cars such as the latest Fiat Bravo/Brava and Renault Megane have shown it up.

Mechanical changes include the availability of a six-speed gearbox. In most other ways, the car uses upgraded current Corolla components. Threeand five-door hatchback, four-door sedan and estate versions are all

The design was actually done in Japan, although Toyota's European

Corolla "more of a face" and more of a operations were said to be consulted regularly. Initially, the car will be imported from Japan, like all European Corollas in the past, but late next year Toyota's factory near Derby will take over production of the five-door hatchback. likely to be the big seller.

Next year Toyota hopes to sell

160,000 Corollas in Europe, up from

118,000 last year. This compares with

likely sales of 600,000 this year for the

best-selling European car in the class,

the VW Golf.

**Gavin Green** 

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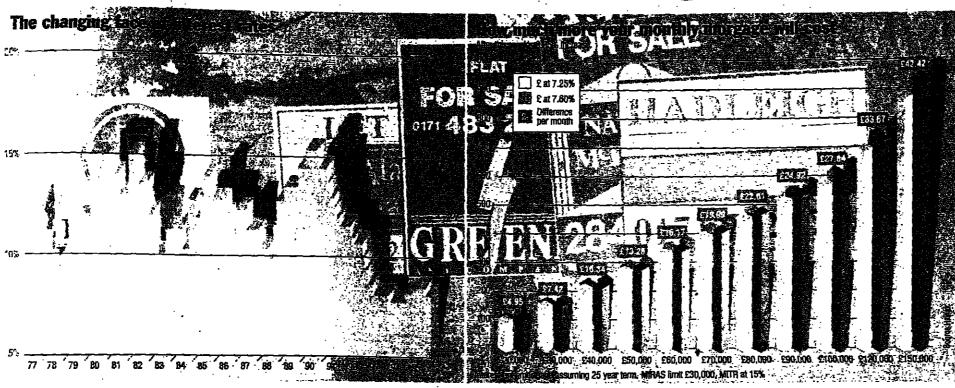
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# homes & money

# New Labour, new mortgage?



#### As interest rates rise yet again, Nic Cicutti looks at the best-value new mortgage options

n the end, the only thing the markets were wrong about was the timing. Predictions of a bank base rate rise shortly after the election - irrespective of which party won - had been rife for months. Gordon Brown surprised many observers, however, with his decision to bring forward the increase by 24 hours.

The Chancellor's move provoked the inevitable scramble by lenders to follow suit with their home loan rates, by an average of 0.35 per cent. Halifax, TSB, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Abbey National and Coventry Building Society were among several hiking the cost of mortgages by about £13 a month for a typical interest-only variable rate loan of £50,000.

Significantly, not all lenders have rushed to raise the cost of a mortgage. Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Yorkshire and Britannia - all of them strong proponents of mutuality - are among those refusing to follow the herd. Even when they do, the rise will almost certainly not be on the same scale as the others, further deepening the divide between themselves and the newly-floated banks,

The continuing rivalry between banks and be as frenzied as it might have been. The signs down over the next two or three years.

was at pains to point out this week that its new 7.6 per cent rate would still leave up to half its borrowers on a lower "loyalty" rate.

For existing and would-be borrowers, the key questions are whether this week's announcement is the first of many and if it is, what to do.

Experts are united in the belief that mortgage rates are on the way back up, with 8.5 per cent at the upper end of current predictions. So, if rates are on an upward curve, what should potential new borrowers do?

Nick Deutsch, chief executive at First Mortgage, a telephone-based home loan broker and main lender, says demand has meant that in many cases, lenders are running out of fixedterm money within 24 hours of launching a new

"We are being contacted by people who know that we can process and accept their applica-tions for fixed loans even faster than the lenders can themselves," he says. The search for that elusive rate-beating deal

has, however, taken a new turn. For if, as many economists suggest, the Chancellor's move to allow the Bank of England to set its own interbuilding societies should mean the drive towards est rates leads to greater stability in the longer higher rates expected by most experts may not term, long-term mortgage rates will be coming

the UK at least, the possibility of long-term fixed rates actually lower than prevailing standard variable rates. If so, fixing at today's rates is not as sensible as it initially sounds.

Ian Darby, director at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, says: "Those who believe rates are likely to come back down again should protect themselves in the immediate period and have the kind of product that will then be placed to follow them later."

John Charcol is offering a choice of products. including a "capped" mortgage, with a standard variable rate of 7.39 per cent which is guaranteed not to rise above 7.99 per cent between now and June 2002. Alternatively, there is the option of a "fix and cap", beginning with a rate of 6.99 per cent until April 1999. Thereafter the loan reverts to the prevailing standard variable rate, capped at 7.99 per cent until April 2002.

Mr Darby says: "With these loans, you get the advantage of knowing that the cost of your loan

will fall if rates do, but will not rise above an acceptable level for the duration of the initial period. Of course, one could put an equally persuasive case for discounted mortgages."

Discounts are the name of the game at Mortgage Intelligence, a network of some 400 brokers throughout the country. Sally Laker, the

people have argued in favour of fixed rates. "But we think it may be time for people to consider discounts. This way, you get the attraction of an immediate saving on the prevailing mortgage rate. If rates do go back down, so will

the discounted mortgage. Mortgage Intelligence has negotiated a 1.5 per cent discount on the existing variable rate for five years. Borrowers also receive a £300 cashback to cover legal fee and valuation costs. The valuation fee itself is fixed at £1 for every £1,000 plus VAT of the loan. Ms Laker claims the discount could save a borrower with an £80,000 loan about £100 a month for five years.

And what of existing borrowers? Those who are already locked into fixed rates should already have loans which compete reasonably well with today's prices. For them, it makes little sense in switching, particularly given existing redemption penalties.

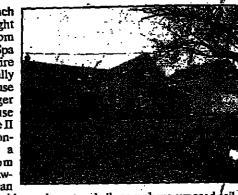
Anyone with a variable rate, or a fixed rate about to end soon should seriously consider capping or discounting. Savings over two or three years will easily compensate for the hassle and expense of re-mortgaging - but only if redemption penalties are low or non-existent.

Mortgage Intelligence 0800246000; John Charcol

## Three on view

#### Coach houses

The Old Coach House eight from miles Learnington Spa in Warwickshire was originally the coach house to the larger Fields House nearby. Grade II listed and converted into a five-bedroom home, the drawing room has an



exposed brick chimney breast and all rooms have exposed ceiling timbers. The old coach entrance is now a set of French doors from the dining room to a patio. £275,000 through Knight Frank (01789297735)

House in Arundel was once part of the Duke Norfolk's Arundel estate. While the Victorian building was being converted into a four-bedroom home, a bundle of love letters from dating around 1900 was

The



found in the loft. They were from a young florist called Julia to Dan Lee, landlord of the Black Rabbit pub, where the letters are now on display. £230,000 through Jackson Stops (01243 786316)

House in Old Costessey near Norwich is an unusual corner building converted into a three-bedroom house. morning room was previously

harness room, with two round windows. A spiral stair-



case links the dining hall with the first floor. There are mature gardens, a small orchard and two acres of woodland. Within the grounds there are two garages which may be used as a large studio or library. £225,000 through Bedford 01328

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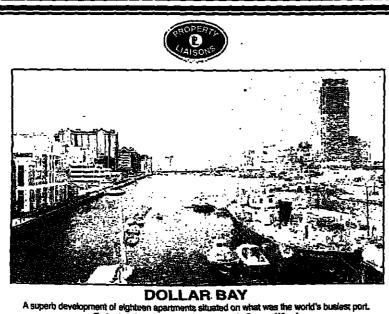
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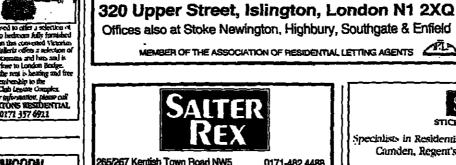
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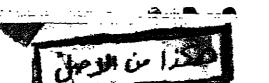
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# Fantasy buyers for dream homes

on view

Vendors and estate agents should be wary of bogus offers, writes Penny Jackson

the brochure of some glorious house and wondered "what if"? The price could be half-a-million pounds, one million, two million it doesn't matter because the dream you can look round a high-value home." stops short of taking real money into the calculations. It's a fleeting lifestyle fantasy that is fun while it lasts.

For a few, though, pictures are not enough. They contact the agents and present themselves as plausible buyers of expensive properties and then proan bluff no more. At this point, they usually disappear.

They are quite different from the numerous time-wasters who are merely curious about how the wealthy live or want a few good decorating ideas. Far from being satisfied with a quick snoop, their game is not over until, at the very least, their offer has been accepted.

David Forbes of Chesterfields has come across two such American operators recently. "One wanted to buy a £3m house the other a £5m property. They had very good stories about claiming to be in the media and in Hollywood. They both made offers and even instructed UK solicitors. One then disappeared while the other kept finding excuses for

not producing a financial reference." lurch take their frustrations out on the Lean's house in Docklands the company agents. "We cannot turn down someone was strung along twice by bogus offers, £300,000 to spend around a number of number of offers and legally we have to "The man then went round the corner

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ho hasn't leafed through Forbes. We do carry out checks, but there are limits. It is not the culture here to get financial references at this stage and most people would get pretty upset if you did ask. In parts of America you have to provide proof of wealth before

It is not surprising that David Forbes would like this to become the practice here. He has seen bogus buyers go as far as employing the staff of a large house, instructing solicitors and surveyors and then disappearing just before the exchange of contracts. One so-called eed to string everyone along until they buyer was only found out after he was overhead boasting about his deception in a Chelsea pub.

So why should anyone want to pretend to huy a house? According to Cary Cooper, professor of psychology at UMIST in Manchester, they are delusional either because they have convinced themselves they can buy or they have to save face by keeping going.
"Such imposters have no self-worth," he says. "If they weren't buying houses they would be acting out other roles. At the voyeuristic level, they like going round, say, a movie star's house to put a bit of glamour into their lives."

Clearly, the attention paid to anyone who looks good for a few million is a great boost to the ego, and celebrity who appears to be genuine," says Mr despite numerous checks, recalls four-bedroom houses. After two weeks write to our clients with details. We will and spent £4m."



Jonathan Hewlett. Some owners require of intensive negotiation a price was of course warn them if we have any people to sign a confidentiality clause agreed. They were moving from a nasty doubts," says Mr Woods. before looking around. "I always ask one or two pertinent questions. If the buyers are genuine they will answer you openly. Anyone rude or abrupt sets the

alarm bells ringing." says Mr Hewlett. It is not just the top end of the market that suffers from time-wasters. The boom in new-build absorbs a good share of the carpet-treaders" whose idea of a good weekend is viewing someone's house, but there are those who are put in offers with no intention of buying or as a back-up

high-rise block so were excited about the whole affair. They had tea with the vendors and measured up and contracts were sent out. My suspicions were aroused when I kept seeing them around even though they were supposed to be abroad. They told us contracts and a banker's draft had been sent by registered post and we spent ages rooting around in the local sorting office. The couple then evapo-

rated into thin air." The fact that nothing locks buyers or

While agents can spot the more obvious fantasists - those who ask where they can park their McLaren F1, or those with an impressionable girlfriend in tow they are aware of the possibility that they could be genuine. Jonathan Hewlett, weary of hearing about relatives who are princes or sultans, had his doubts about a very large bid. "I was told that the man had arrived in the country with a full police and diplomatic escort. He just seemed implausible to me." And David ot producing a financial reference." homes have the bogus buyers out in while continuing to look around. Henry sellers into a binding agreement until Forbes knows of one agent who must be Not unnaturally, vendors left in the force. When Savills was selling David Woods of Douglas & Gordon's Bat-contracts are exchanged makes it ripe for rueing the day he ignored a scruffy

## Good news in Blair country

nder the massed ranks of cameras last weekend, Islington enjoyed its finest hour. All over the world, people were given pictures of New Labour's spiritual heartland basking in glorious sunshine. No wonder that estate agents were counting the landslide in popular when the process. landslide in pounds rather than votes. They are hoping that the Prime Minister will do for Islington what Margaret Thatcher did for

"The election really put Islington on the map," says Jeremy Campbell-Harris of Winkworth. "Prices have already gone up by up to 48 per cent in the last year. In Richmond Crescent, the Blairs' street, a house that sold for about £400,000 12 months ago, is now selling for anything from half a million to £700,000."

There has, indeed, been an enormous swell of interest in the area, yet perhaps this has rather more to do with its proximity to the City and the West End than its political celebrities. Restaurants and bars are full in the evening and the Bohemian atmosphere is drawing people away from areas such as Notting Hill. where prices have moved into the premier league. Angel, Barnsbury and Canonbury are becoming known as the new W11.

Yolande Barnes of Savills Research has for some time predicted that Islington will fall into the prime central London category, although she cautions against regarding it all in the same light: "It has pockets of Georgian stock that have arrived in terms of prices, but it doesn't yet have the cachet of the traditional prime areas."

North London has always been a combination of prime and borderline areas with changing fortunes. Hampstead, St Johns Wood and Belsize Park are surrounded by patches that have fast been getting smarter. Camden, for instance, has the pull of Camden Lock which has brought about a dramatic improvement of shops and restaurants over the past 10 years. Rather like Islington, its trendy status is reflected in the prices.

Marc Goldberg of Hamptons International has suddenly seen some pretty roads on the Chalk Farm patch become more prestigious, while Primrose Hill he describes as a "diamond patch". In Chalcott Square, between Camden Town and Regent's Park, a house that was not worth more than £900.000 at the peak of the market in the Eighties is currently being sold for almost £2m.

As an alternative to Hampstead, Mr Goldberg points to Highgate - a real London village that hasn't yet been commercialised. A Georgian family house would be less than £800,000 rather than over £1m in Hampstead. Ben Stagg of Goldschmidt & Howland reports that the market here has been fairly quiet. "If a house is not exactly right, buyers wili waik away.`

In his area - from Regent's Park to Hampstead - the greatest pressure is for houses between £450,000 and £1m. "There's a squeeze from all fronts – from people trading down, families trading up and even young buyers on very good salaries. We have plenty of couples selling two-bed flats in Hampstead for £250,000 and going straight for properties in the £600,000 plus region."

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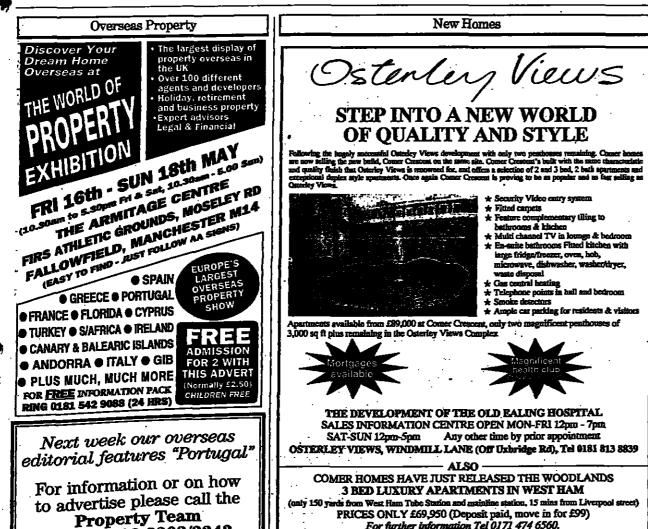
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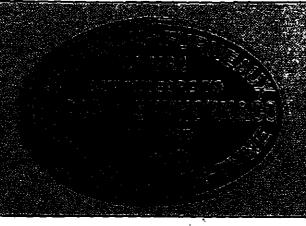
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# Steamed up over a nameplate







Collect to invest: Railwayana is the trainspotter's revenge and a virgin market, says John Windsor

motive nameplates, sold to railway enthusiasts at scrap value from British Railways stores in the Sixties, can be worth up to £25,000 and prices are still

It sounds like an investors' dream. Why not buy one now, re-sell in a couple of years and pocket a cool few thousand? Did not a telephone bidder from Hong Kong bid £15,000 for the York and Ainsty LNER hunt class nameplate in March, before being pipped at £15,100? The Chinese are getting in on it. Quick: who do

I make my cheque out to?
In fact, the Hong Kong bidder was a
British collector. The question to ask is why the railwayana market, in spite of £190,000 and the school gets £1,000 plus rapid and continuous gains, is still virgin, unsullied by speculators. Where's the catch? On the face of it, there isn't one. I shall give reasons why you should not try to make a killing out of nameplates, lots to him, rather than auction them

Tou could call it the trainspotters' but first I must appeal to your sentiment. revenge. Decorative brass loco- The only specialised commercial railwayana auctions are not in London, the speculators' lair, but in the dim and distant city of Sheffield, where six times a year up to 700 railway buffs assemble in the hall of Myers Grove comprehensive school to bid at auctions organised by Ian Wright, 54, who used to be the school's deputy head.

A railway enthusiast himself, he held his first auction of railwayana - besides nameplates, other memorabilia including crested cutlery and chamberpots – at the school in 1987, to raise funds for it. By 1990, regular sales were making £40,000 a year profit and he retired to make them s profession. Each sale now totals some hall rent. Today, he ventures south to auc-

tion a big private collection in Hendon. No auctioneer or dealer can compete with Mr Wright. Some auctioneers send

themselves. The only reason that Bonhams got a 558-lot chunk of Sir William McAlpine's railwayana collection last September was that it had the resources to mount a sale in double quick time. "We've just about cornered the market", says Mr Wright. "There are no dealers at my sales, just collectors who are happy to pay top money.

Indeed, they do. The record £25,000 was paid for the nameplate of the Southern Railway's Battle of Britain class locomotive 603 squadron, built in 1948 and broken up in 1967. Most of the Battle of Britain nameplates were presented to the RAF by the railway company, so they are

Only railway buffs who know that expected such an enormous price. Mr Wright does not publish pre-sale estimates. Nor does he charge a buyer's premium. Seller's premium on the first £1,000 is a modest 10 per cent (not the customary 15 per cent) and only 5 per cent thereafter. It sounds disconcertingly amateurish to the hardened speculator.

The previous price comparable with the £15,100 for the York and Ainsty was £9,200 for the Morpeth, another hunt nameplate, the previous year. Not a bad rate of appreciation (although most are as yet worth less than £10,000). In the Thirties - but you will not wish to know this - you could have picked up name-plates ex-yard for five bob and in the early Sixties even King class nameplates cost a mere £15. Fifty King class nameplates slung onto the back of a lorry would have made you a millionaire today.

King class? What's class? You will have to ask Mr Wright, or speak nicely to one of the enthusings at Myers Grave.

one of the enthusiasts at Myers Grove school. There are no textbooks, no price guides - although Mr Wright has logged the ownership of some 3,000 nameplates.

And when you get to Myers Grove school, expect to find fewer than half a dozen nameplates to bid for. They are

almost never re-auctioned before the owner dies. No speculators, remember?
"I know people who would rather buy

railwayana than bread," says Mr Wright. They're a passion, not an investment. Look at the price the York and Ainsty made. There were 84 of those hunt plates on 42 engines. You'd think I'd be rung up by somebody wanting to sell at that price but not a one. They're not selling".

There have been flurries of buying: prices trebled in 1978-9 and there was another rush in the late Eighties - the sort of blips speculators have learned to be wary of. What goes up must come down.

"But in 10 years' auctioneering, I've seen nothing but buoyancy. We've never had speculators. They don't understand nameplates. It's not an international market, so they're nervous. They're wrong, but that's how they feel. I'm glad. Speculators would be a disaster. Once they got involved, buying and selling every three years, I'd be in trouble with prices. I want nostalgic people, lovers of nameplates in their own right."

He's one - he bought his first name-plate for £125 in 1971 (worth £6,500 today) after being cajoled into watching an enthusiasts' preserved steam express roar through Sheffield. "I saw it come round the bend swaying on its frames and I was hooked." Ever seen an express sway on its frames? If you have, perhaps you should buy a nameplate and put it on you wall - and in your will. More nameplates circulating speculatively through auction means more nameplates and lower prices. You could end up derailing your own express train to riches.

Sheffield Railwayana Auctions, 43 Little Nonon Lanc, Sheffield S8 8GA (Tellfax 0114-274 5085).

Auction of the Paul Edwards collection of railwayana and juvenilia, Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, today 11.30am (0860-

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or those of us in regular contact with banks and building societies, there was something almost comical in the haste with which they rushed to bump up the cost of home loans in the wake of Chancellor Gordon Brown's base rate announcement on Tuesday.

Within hours of base rates going up to 6.25 per cent, lenders were in touch to say that mortgages would rise too, this time by 0.35 per cent on average, adding £13 a month to the cost of a £50,000 loan.

There are a few points worth noting. The first is the disparity between the increase in base rates and of home loans. Of course, it is only fair to point out that lenders have in the past year or two pushed up their mortgages by less than the prevailing base rate change.

The second is that in the scramble to hike home loans, many of us ignored the hush from mutually owned societies. The most profoundly "mutual" societies, including Britannia, Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Yorkshire,



Nic Cicuti

are standing back this weekend before reaching a decision. It is likely that they too will push up their rates, although by less than their banking competitors. But even if they were to imitate their rivals to the last decimal point, the one-week breathing space means a difference of about £3. Small beer, maybe, but at least it stays in our pockets' and not the banks'.

The final point is connected to the previous one. For in the frenzy to tell us about rising mortgage rates, virtually all of them with immediate effect for existing

Odd, isn't it, how deft institutions are at picking our pockets, how slow at giving some of it back

borrowers, the banks and wannabe banks "forgot" to mention savings rates. These, I was assured, would rise "in due course", but it was "too early" to say when that might be. Odd, isn't it, how financial organisations are so deft at picking our pockets and so sluggish when it comes to giving some of that money back.

here was another, unreported. I consequence of the Chancellor's decision to hand control of interest rates to the Bank of England. According to the Annuity

Bureau, a London-based firm of retirement specialists, annuities the yearly income bought with pension lump sums - tumbled by up to 5 per cent almost overnight.

In effect, anyone close to retirement who has a personal pension, or is a member of an occupational "money-purchase" scheme, will have seen the value of their retirement income slashed by that amount.

This is because annuity rates are generally dependent on returns from medium-term government gilts. The market's reaction to Gordon Brown's announcement was to push up the price of shares and gilts. As a result, gilt yields fell and with them, annuity rates.

The fall may reverse itself, at least in part. However, for anyone with pension arrangements where their final lump sum is used to buy an annuity, the lesson to learn is that annual retirement income is hard to predict. Increasing contributions where possible may be the only way to ensure a comfortable retirement.

Of course, one could argue that the way in which this dramatic cut in pensioners' income went unreported was further evidence of what little value society places on them and their needs. But that would be too cynical an attitude.

Finally, many of you are aware that The Independent also publishes a Money section on Wednesdays, in which there is a chance to discuss an even wider range of topics than in this edition If there is an issue you would

like either of our Money sections to look at, feel free to write in. My thanks to all of you who have asked to take part in the free financial makeovers we offer Independent readers. To those who

have written but have not enclosed details of themselves or a telephone number, get in touch again. To other readers of this section, you are welcome to take

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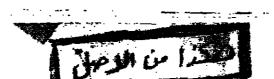
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# good start to life under Labour

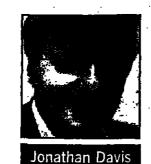
o, life under Labour has begun with an outburst of the much lamented feelgood factor in the financial markets. This, I hope, will not come as a complete surprise to readers of this columm. A few months ago, I quoted the

views of Stephen Lewis, the experi-enced bond analyst, that foreign bond investors would react warmly to news of a convincing victory by a moderate Labour Party apparently committed to stern anti-inflationary policies and the pursuit of greater

integration with Europe.
And so it has proved: the markets like certainty more than anything else, and there is nothing if not durability in the prospect of a government with such a large majority.

The big surprise so far of course has been Gordon Brown's rapid and unexpected move to give control over the setting of interest rates to the Bank of England. The markets had already largely bought the argument that Labour is now a seriously moderate party shorn of its old taxand-spend habits. But Mr Brown has moved quickly to shore up the Government's credibility with the "bond market vigilantes" still further by pre-empting any lingering uncer-tainty about the seriousness of his intentions to avoid taking political liberties with interest rates.

This is a profound and historic change in the way that we conduct more quickly long-term interest rates our economic policy. If it works out can fall and the more benign both



as presented, investors will have good cause to celebrate the slaying of one Labour bogeyman: that it is the party of inflation. Last week's market reaction was certainly encouraging. Short-term rates went up, as the Bank of England wanted. but the yield on long-term gilts which is the one that ultimately matters most for industry and investors - fell quite dramatically. The stock market was also up 4 per

cent in a week by midday yesterday. This is exactly what you would expect to happen if the markets had accepted that long-term inflation prospects have improved as a result of the new monetary policy arrangements. The whole rationale of central bank control of interest rates is one of "short-term pain, long-term gain". The more credible the antiinflationary strategy is seen to be, the

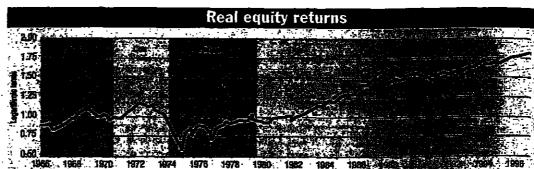
The next test of the new Government's credibility will come in the Budget

the economic and investment environment will become.

That's in theory: of course the new arrangement has still to be made to work in practice. While there is clear evidence that countries with independent central banks tend to have lower rates of inflation than those which do not, what Mr Brown has proposed is only a halfway house towards full independence.

We don't know how the new monetary policy committee at the Bank, with its "expert" members nominated by the Chancellor, will work in practice. It is worth remembering that most of our leading economic competitors have arrangements which already give their central banks more control than the Bank of England will have - so the change, while radical in our terms, will not give us any competitive advantage

over other countries. The new arrangement, while



not yet a guarantor of improved economic performance. There is no law which says the Bank will be any better at reading the economic runes than anybody else, and in fact its recent record in predicting inflation and the level of economic activity has been patchy at best. Nor does the new arrangement actually guarantee that politics will be taken out of interest rate decisions. Even in countries such as Germany and the United States, where the central banks have much greater constitutional freedom than ours, they are constantly engaged in behind-the-scenes battles with governments intent on keeping the economy moving along.

Still, there is no reason to be grudging about accepting the thrust of what Mr Brown is trying to do or about believing his intentions. Assuming the economic climate remains as benign as it is today,

investors are right to take comfort move ahead. Over at the Departfrom what has happened. A period of low inflation, coupled with a Government that seeks to retain tight control over the budget deficit and is committed to supporting business (if those two promises also turn out to be true), should hold no great fears for investors.

The next test of the Government's credibility will come in the Budget. How far will Mr Brown move to fill the gap in the public finances by additional taxation on companies? Raising the rate of corporation tax by 2 per cent would raise £2bn and must look a tempting target, given the strong recent rise in industry's return on capital. And how far will he move to cut the tax privileges of the pension funds by restricting further the advance corporation tax credit on dividends? Either step threatens to put a lid on the scope for the stock market to

however. After all, we have never before had to deal with a Labour government which is trying so hard to emulate - or, in the case of this week's monetary policy changes, to outdo - what are traditionally thought of as Tory policies.

Before embracing too readily the message that New Labour will be good for investors, don't forget: (a) that stock markets are already highly valued in historical terms; and (b) that we cannot divorce our fortunes from those of the rest of the world. A timely study this week from PDFM, the fund management group, reminded us that the UK stock market has out-performed all other leading stock markets since the dark days of 1975. As Warren Buffett, the legendary

American investor, also pointed out this week, the stock market cannot go on producing its current excep-tional rates of growth forever. Even if the risk from a Labour government has diminished, the risk of mean tell a different story, but if you look reversion remains. And, of course, at real returns (after inflation) the one bold announcement does not remove the risk that New Labour will be bounced out of its confident stride by the turn of unforeseen events. Still, after last week's welcome beginnings, nothing has changed my view that gilts remain a sound bet - and who would have thought one could ever have said that with a Labour Chancellor newly installed in Downing Street?

# For a fistful of dollars

Currency: Exchange rates mean more than holiday cash, says Rachel Fixsen

time, foreign currency is an issue to be addressed once or and vice versa. twice a year during a foreign twice a year during a foreign holiday as we painstakingly count out the drachmas or the pesetas to pay

Even your mortgage payments could be affected by the pound. Remember 1992 when the governfor our ice creams.

We all know holidays abroad pushing interest rates sky-high? become much cheaper when sterling nine and a half French francs.

Perhaps not surprisingly, few people realise the role such fluctuations can have on their daily lives. "People are ' rise, and vice versa. aware of [currency changes], but not the potential impact they can have," says Tim Cockerill, investment director at Whitechurch Securities in in the UK are rising. They aim to pre-Bristol. This is particularly the case for millions of small investors.

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ARKET

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Even if your money is invested within the UK, the pound's struggles abroad have an impact on shares. For example, many private investors are unaware of indirect holdings by their fund managers in foreign bonds and shares. A unit trust may be quoted in sterling, for example, though most of its underlying assets are in foreign currencies. If you invest in an international growth unit trust, for example, or a European equity fund, then the value of your investment will be

hit by sterling's fate. equity investment to their name, the dangers lurk. JP Morgan currency pension funds they belong to will usu- analyst Avinash Persaud sees the ally have some overseas investment,

or most of us, most of the against major currencies, foreign investment returns are magnified

ment tried to shore up sterling by

Why do currency values change? A is strong. Trips to France cost a lot currency becomes strong when it is less now that a pound buys nearly in demand. It is in demand when it gives investors a good return. So, if interest rates are higher in the UK than in the US, the pound is likely to

But big investors are always looking ahead: they don't wait until it is obvious to everyone that interest rates dict a rise much earlier, so they can buy the pound before it has become

Financial institutions often manage to make huge amounts of money by betting on future currency move ments. Traders made a killing out of sterling's abrupt departure from the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992, for example.

Conversely, sterling's recent strength against the mark has hit British exporters hard, as their goods are priced out of foreign markets.

The pound has climbed to dizzy heights in the last year against the Even for those with no direct German mark and the dollar. But and exchange rate fluctuations make the next two months, from a recent themselves felt. If sterling is weak level of 2.82, as the uncertainty over means they pay a third party to take account. In theory you could use this means they pay a third party to take



The professionals: In theory, you could make your own bets on currency movements but it's very risky

"There is a currency risk with every overseas investment," says Brian Turner, treasury director of Henderson Investors. Henderson runs a European fund, where returns in cash terms have been hit by sterling's latest show of strength. "Gains have most certainly been reduced," Mr Turner says. Sterling's trade-weighted exchange rate has risen 15 per cent

the imminent Budget takes its toll. the risk on for them, by means of ing out of sterling if you think it's complex financial instruments called derivatives.

Can small-time players get a piece of the action? In theory - but remember, the foreign exchange market is full of highly-paid individuals trying, and often failing, to forecast accurately how currencies will move.

You can hold a certain type of deposit account where you can switch your money from one currency to analyst Avinash Persaud sees the Fund managers can erase the risk another at a very low cost. Fidelity pound falling as low as 2.67 marks in of currency fluctuations by what is Currency Funds are just such an

value is about to fall, into marks. When the movement is over, you could move back into sterling, hav-

ing made a profit. But this is a highly risky business. Without the back-up that the banks have - huge economic research departments, whole teams analysing past patterns of currency behaviour and so on - you stand little chance of

winning your bet. For most of us, most of the time, the drama will be limited to getting our sums wrong over that cheap meal

#### PERSONAL PENSIONS

ment of Trade and Industry, mean-

while, we wait to see how the new

ministerial regime rules on the var-

ious bids and deals awaiting merger

clearance. It will be a good litmus test

of the Government's professed

It is true that Labour governments

have not traditionally been as good

for the stock market as Conserva-

tives ones. In nominal terms, the

returns on shares might appear to

story is clear enough, as my chart

shows. For obvious reasons, indus-

trial shares have tended to do bet-

ter under Labour in the past than

financials, and vice versa under the

Tories. Because of its poor infla-

tionary record, the returns on gilts

have also been inferior under

Labour. Such parallels with the past have only limited relevance today.

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Source, MONEYFACTS 01692 500677. 8 May 1997

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# The taxman's a party-pooper

ne of the most famous business savings is that there is no such thing as a free lunch. The truth of that is something I leave you to judge, but one certainty is that virtually all entertaining has a tax cost.

The basic thrust of the tax system is that entertaining leads to a tax penalty for someone. There are exceptions, but anyone planning a function should bear in mind that a corporation tax disallowance - or an income tax charge may be waiting in the wings. Add a VAT disallowance that will likewise be lurking and that £100 lunchtime gathering can be up to an equivalent £150 spend. (I'll

concentrate on income and

corporate tax in this article

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VARIABLE RATE

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All rates correct at 28th April 1947.

0181 649 9099

**MORTGAGES** 



John Whiting

.but VAT irrecoverability basically parallels corporate tax disallowance). The extra tax cost can fall on the business (or employer if you prefer it) or, at least in part, on the individual.

Starting with the business, entertaining spending is essentially tax disallowable. Entertaining is not just that lunch either - it means

ANNUAL GROSS RATE

5.75%

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Virtually all entertaining even the staff social - means a tax penalty for someone

overnight accommodation for a consultant or sub-contractor counts as entertaining - and is entire cost of one or more therefore disallowable. Better to let the sub-contractor pick up the hotel bill (as subsistence) and recharge it (as expenses) perhaps.

There is one tiny, and one large, exception to this general disallowance. The tiny one relates to gifts. A gift counts as entertaining and is thus disallowable - but not if it costs under £10, is not part of a series and carries a prominent advert for the donor. That probably covers the pen I am writing with - but not a bottle of Scotch because food, drink and related vouchers are excluded.

The major exception is staff entertaining. Some may remember entertaining overseas customers being allowable, but that went in 1988. There is a rule of thumb that anything for staff is tax-deductible for the employer - not a foolproof rule but it works here. The rationale is that there is always the opportunity to tax many such recipients are the individual. And that gives us the link to the second half of this issue - the fact that staff entertaining can lead to a benefit-in-kind

income tax charge. You may start to question this - after all, all those staff functions you went to were working lunches, or necessary staff socials to maintain morale. But, like it or not, there is a benefit here for the staff concerned. The Revenue will argue that

benefit is taxable. Such charges are often raised through PAYE audits carried out by the Revenue, with the employer frequently agreeing to settle the tax due on the employees' behalf.

This doesn't always happen and I know one sizeable employer which warns the staff of the value of social functions so they can declare it on their tax return.

Again there are

exceptions. Many readers will be aware that there is a concession for a Christmas party. Actually, the Revenue allows party costs up to £75 per head before raising a charge - and that doesn't 'hospitality of any kind". Thus ' have to be at Christmas. But it is all you get for a year and to count it has to cover the functions, not the first first £75 of some mega-bash.

With self-assessment now upon us, "third party" benefits are an issue. If someone other than your employer gives you a benefit, that may also be taxable. Normally hospitality won't count in this argument: remember it will have been disallowed on the entertainer" - who will see it as non-staff entertaining. But go beyond this to an outright gift, prize or something similar and there is a taxable benefit looming.

Under self-assessment, the provider has an obligation to report benefits given in this way to the individual concerned. A value also has to be put on them, on a "cost to the provider" basis, so that the recipient can put the item on his or her tax return if appropriate.

It has to be said that we are getting into controversial areas here, not least because self-employed under different tax rules. For example, many travel writers would not see a benefit in a trip that is undertaken to write about a particular destination. But if their partner went with them, or if the trip was given to someone not involved with travel writing, there could be tax-sickness as well as travelsickness from the trip.

All in all, entertaining is a fruitful area for the taxman to check up on. It may seem unfair, but don't forget that few people entertain the

John Whiting is a tax purmer at Price Waterhouse

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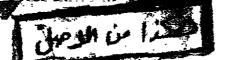
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EDE OCENT TONG METKEND

# Headaches start when school's out

College: The need for parents to salt money away to pay for education is greater than ever. Andrew Verity reports

A-levels in the coming weeks may find their hopes of good exam results are tempered by the knowledge that academic success means financial headaches for several years, as

their offspring prepare for college life. During the election, all the three main political parties claimed that education was a top priority for them. Labour said it would divert more funds into schools, mostly by re-allocating money previously

But David Blunkett, Labour's new Education Minister, is unlikely to find the significant new resources needed to offset the crisis facing higher education. Under Labour, as with the Tories before them, university students - and their parents - look set to become poorer.

The need for parents to salt money away to help pay for higher education is higher than ever. The first question is: how much will they need? Grants, frozen for the last 10 years, have fallen 36 per cent against inflation. In the year 1997 to 1998, they will be worth just £1,710 - or £2,105 in London. Students are taking up loans on preferential terms from the

arents whose children are taking Glasgow-based Student Loans Company, making life slightly easier - but not much. The maximum loan of £1,685 a year would give a total annual income (outside London) of just £3,395.

How does that compare with outgoings? Estimates from the National Union of Students suggest a student outside London can expect the minimum bill over the year of at least £4,500 ~ over £1,100 more than their income after outgoings are taken into account.

Even if inflation stays below 6 per cent, a student living this meagre lifestyle for three years will fall short by almost £4,000. Add on the loan and even cautious students will face a debt burden of £9,000 when they graduate. For those not eligible for a grant the total cost will be closer to £14,000.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the body for university heads, is pressing for an "all-loan system" that will make students pay at least a third of tuition fees as well as living expenses. By 2005, this would increase the debt burden by £2,400 a year. Add to this the projected student debt burden and the cost of a university education after 2005 comes



Wheeling into debt: without provision, even the most cautious students can eventually face king sized bills for their college education

there is no entitlement to a grant, the total will be over £21,000.

Anne Feek, managing director of the School Fees Insurance Agency, says: "As it is, parents are reluctant for their children to start life with a debt. If tuition fees are introduced what option is there for parents who want the best for their offspring other than to fund their education

It still seems an impossible amount to find. Yet many parents find that by investing a moderate sum now, they can offset the costs. Several companies offer specially tailored investment products aimed at saving for education. Look out for those that allow you to schedule payments when they fall due; it cuts out the pitfalls of arranging finance at the last minute. The School Fees Insurance Agency

to £16,000 between parent and child. If offers a way of harnessing tax reliefs to let savers tap into growth in the stock market and maximise saving for education.

Each parent can put up to £6,000 in a PEP that invests in shares every year. There is no tax on the investment growth of the fund - and no tax on payouts. Regular monthly payments are also an option. The PEP can then invest in a unit trust

that may generate much higher growth than simply saving in a building society. Over the last three years, unit trusts invested in UK equities generated an average growth of 32 per cent. Johnson Fry Slater Growth has grown by 82 per cent over the three years to April.

Investing money with an insurance company's fund can also deliver good returns. Over the last three years, the average growth in UK equity funds was

If you believe this will keep up, you can sharply reduce the burden of raising cash when your child attends university. If you pay £162 a month into a PEP, starting this year, your 12-year-old child could receive £1,500 a term by the time they go to col-

lege in the early 2000s. Many believe that these returns are unusually good and will not be repeated. Anyone who believes interest rates will rise significantly and stay there would be better off investing in fixed-interest stocks. which offer certain returns, albeit at a lower rate than equity investments.

Because PEP providers often have initial charges, it makes sense to invest over a long period - preferably at least five years. Savers who have five years but little to save may be better off with a tax-This pays a tax-free rate of about 7 per special treat.

cent a year at present, on savings of up

to £9,000. For parents with children who may go to college sooner than that, some companies offer efficient ways of releasing any spare equity in your home.

The School Fees Partnership can refer people to an independent adviser able to advise them on the company's Special Reserve Plan.

This in effect re-mortgages the family home - cheaper than a second mortgage and allows parents to draw money later from the capital which that generates. All educational savings plans allow

parents to use payments for other purposes if they wish. So even if a child decides against attending university, the money will pay exempt special savings account or Tessa. for that long-promised holiday, car or

specialist insurance intermediary, has launched a policy that pays out in the event of disability, unemployment or business cessation. Premiums cost £3.95 per £100 of unemployment insurance or £6.55 for full cover. Call 0171 828.4434. Friends Provident is launching a five-year fixed-

Dremier General, a

income investment bond, offering a choice that includes income of 10 per cent per year. The bond is linked to the joint performance of the FT-SE 100 and German DAX share indexes: if prices are 5 per cent lower in five years than at present, investors receive only the balance of the original investment after income has been paid. Call

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finance provider, is launching a telephone-based lending operation, providing personal loans to homeowners including selfemployed, divorcees and those with difficult credit ratings. Rates start at 9.9 per cent APR on loans of up to

£50,000. Call 0800 729927. Age Concern has relaunched its pet insurance policy. Monthly premiums for cats, which include vet treatment worth up to £2,600, are £4.89. Cover for dogs costs between £6.37 and £7,39. Call 0800 590229.

Fidelity is abolishing the 0.75 per cent charge on its Investment Trust Share

Plans, together with the 0.75 per cent charge on lump sum investments. The plans allow lump sum investments into four trusts investing in Europe, Japan and Asia. Call 0800 414110.

Cooper Lancaster Brewers, a tax specialist, is offering a fixed-price tax return service to deal with the Inland Revenue's new self-assessment forms. The firm has also teamed up with Hambro to offer insurance cover, costing £29.50 a year, against professional costs involved in the Revenue's move to carry out random investigations into tax

returns. Call 0345 626975. Glasgow Investment Managers is extending the no initial charges deal on its Glasgow PEP, with a choice of income and capital growth from three investment trusts. CMI 0800 435 797.

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Some sectors of the economy may prosper mightily under Labour. Which ones?

love surprises. I always have. Not for me sneaking a peak at the presents under the Christmas tree on 24
December. No, I like to be surprised.

Surprise is something of an understatement when it comes to describing the City's reaction to the decision of Chancellor Gordon Brown to loosen the ties that bind the Bank of England to the

Treasury. Note the word loosen. The changes announced last Tuesday did not amount to the creation of an independent central bank. Moreover, the Chancellor has reserved the right to re-assume the powers he has delegated if he considers it appropriate, while inflation targets remain the provenance of Government.

Overall, markets greeted the move with considerable enthusiasm. Gilts took particular heart from the de-politicising of the interest rate weapon. Even so, there remains a significant premium in yield terms between British government stocks and German bonds. The closer we got to joining a single European currency, the more difficult this disparity will be to justify. But it is hard to see the premium vanishing until we have a better indication of how the economy will be managed.

We may even have a few surprises there. Mr Brown's move on the Bank might have been welcomed overall in the Square Mile, but I do not recall reading or hearing of this move as part of New Labour's policy in the run-up to the election. If Mr Brown can deliver surprises like this so soon after he assumes power, heaven knows what he may have in store for us when the first Labour Budget is delivered.

Debating some of the other changes that life under Labour may bring to business and the City on the radio earlier this week, I was amazed at the Damascené conversion of those who in the past would have stood out strongly against the Social Chapter. It seems the minimum wage is unlikely to be the threat once feared. There is even a belief that some sectors of the economy might reasonably be expected to prosper



mightily under Labour. Telecommunications and media were two areas selected by David Muir of Ogilvy and Mather, whose report, The Devil's in the Detail, gives a snapshot of how he believes the Labour approach will make the world seem very different in corporate Britain.

Given the new digital revolution, perhaps we should be examining multi-media companies more closely in any event. Cynics might say that BSkyB is bound to prosper under a Blair administration, given the groundwork already put in by Rupert Murdoch. Quite what we will do with all these new television channels I am not certain but those companies must be looking forward to the future with

The property sector is another area that might benefit. Not only are there signs that the strength of the economy is beginning to spill over into greater enthusiasm for property investment and development, but falling gilt yields are likely to make property assets -and the shares of the companies who invest in them - that much more attractive.

Land Securities is the daddy of them all, although the shares are close to their high. But then so is the market. Still, with the yield fully 15 per cent above the market average, it looks a good widows and orphans stock

Once again Wall Street is the driving force for our market. The growth in demand for financial assets in America has undoubtedly helped buoy stock values, but it is as well to remember in this digital age that market moves can take place very swiftly indeed.

There seems to be a growing technological bent this week appropriate as one real growth industry is computer software. As well as the ticking millennium time-bomb, coping with a single European currency is exercising minds. For those who wonder how to benefit from the way our continental cousins are cashing in, a software provider is a good bet.

Brian R Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee of Greig Middleton & Co (0171 392 4000) NAME: Diane Savage

OCCUPATION: corporate liaison officer with a professional body. BACKGROUND: Diane earns £24,000 and plans to stay with her employer. Her long-term partner, Tony, is a graphic designer and they jointly own a property mortgaged on a fixed rate with the Bank of Ireland. In addition they have a small loan for home improvements through Midland Bank. The mortgage is covered with a joint life policy.

Diane has a good company pension scheme she joined 30 months ago. She also enjoys good health benefits from her employer. She has recently inherited £10,000 and wonders what to do with this. She has ethical concerns about where her money is invested.

THE ADVISER: Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, a firm of independent financial advisers in London (Tel 0171 404

THE ADVICE: "Diane benefits from a final salary pension scheme set up by her employer, where her final retirement income will be linked to the number of years she has been with the organisation. Her pension benefits are due to be paid at 62. In fact, Diane has indicated that she would like to retire at 65 and the pension scheme does allow for this.

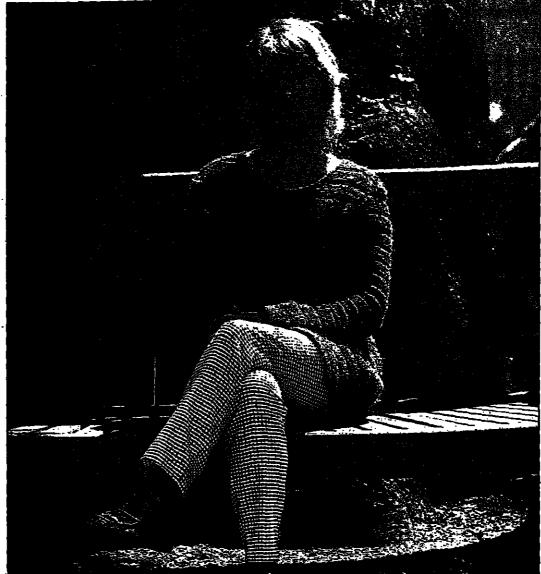
As Diane and Tony are not married, there are various housekeeping exercises that they should undertake. There are also benefits for which Diane is eligible that Tony cannot take advantage of.

The main one is the spouse's pension that would be paid in the event of Diane's premature death. Only the most enlightened employers make provisions for common-law spouses and Tony stands to lose £5,000 a year should Diane pre-decease him, because they are not married.

However, Diane has already made provision for Tony with her death-in-service benefit which is four times her income. She should also ensure that provision is made for Tony to benefit from the Allied Dunbar personal pension that she had prior to joining the company pension scheme.

Tony has a personal pension plan and he should make sure that this is left in trust for her. Neither of them has made wills, and this is something that they should do post-haste. They should check that ownership of the house is joint tenancy, so each will own the property should the other die.

Diane's firm provides a good health insurance policy for her if she should fall ill. This is basically 50 per cent of her income which increases at 3 per cent per annum.



# When there's a will

Makeover: Diane and her long-term partner should start by considering what happens if one of them dies

fine in low-inflation times, if the real value of Diane's ill-health income would reduce.

I therefore recommend that she consider taking out a critical illness policy for the amount of the mortgage - £66,000. Critical illness policies pay out in the event of the onset of certain illnesses and diseases, such as cancer, heart attacks or strokes. This would cost £20 a month with Skandia, an insurer that has an ethical fund.

Diane's pension is very good. However, she has joined it late and therefore there is room for improvement. If she retires at 65,

Whilst the 3 per cent increase is per cent of her income. In order scheme but she will not have the to top this up by a further 10 per cost of living should increase the cent, she should invest £60 a month net of tax into an additional voluntary contribution scheme

(AVC). She indicates that she has £380 a month left after basic household bills have been paid. Some of this will be taken up with the AVC pension top-up. The companies that I recommend she looks at for topping up her pension would be Friends Provident and NPI, which both run ethical funds. Diane should certainly also

investigate the in-house arrangement that the professional body

discretion of investing where she chooses, for instance in an ethical fund. She will have to weigh up the lower cost versus the other benefits of flexibility and choice.

As far as the inheritance is concerned, Diane has £10,000 for investment. I am not recommending that she repays some of her mortgage as it is on a fixed rate with the Bank of Ireland and she would suffer redemption penalties for so doing. I recommend that she keeps

£2,000 aside for short-term emergencies in an accessible fund. She should look at a postal account operates. She is likely to find that such as Cheltenham & Gloucester brief details about yourself and a she would be looking at about 50 the charges will be lower with this which would give a gross interest telephone number.

Spare cash: Diane's £10,000 inheritance could be split between a PEP, a Tessa and a high-interest account

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON BYE

rate of 5.5 per cent for a 30-day account.

For the remainder, I recommend that she put £6,000 into a PEP and £2,000 into a Tessa. If Diane is looking to invest her PEP in the UK, then Credit Suisse or Friends Provident will suit and if she is looking to mives internationally, NPI and Jupiter fit the bill. As far as the Tessa as concerned, then Birmingliam Midshires Inflation-Beater Tessa offers a guaranteed 3 per cent over the retail price index with a current

rate of 6.5 per cent. My recommendations will change if Diane can repay her loan without penalty. This will release £136 a month for further savings which she could use to top up a Tessa, for instance.

Given that she has indicated that she has additional sums available each month, I would recommend that after she has invested in a critical illness policy and a pension top-up, she should decide on a further sum to place in a PEP.

If, say, Diane chooses one PEP for this tax year, her monthly savings can be invested in another PEP to give her a spread of risk. The PEPs should be set aside for a five-year-plus period and Diane has indicated that this is the length of time she is looking to.

of time she is looking to.

In summary, Diane has good provision but needs to keep up the discipline of savings. This will ensure that she has a comfortable future, irrespective of the uncertainties of life."

(Amanda Davidson's advice was given shortly before the end of the 1996-97 tax year, allowing Diane to take advantage of that year's tax allowance for her lump sum PEP investment)

THE VERDICT: "I have taken up Amanda's advice on a number of issues. For instance, I am taking steps to pay off the Midland Bank loan and I have already made the lump-sum PEP investment. We were aware of the need to make wills and we have one in front of us right now, literally.

Amanda's advice sounded sensible and it made me want to act on it immediately."

If you want to take part in a financial makeover, please write to: Nic Cicutti, "Free Financial Advice: Offer". The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, enclosing a few.

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There are people who don't feel they're really alive unless they have a tragedy, and Marcella's one of them

arcella is working her-self up into a high old state of self-pity; not for the first time, and I'm sure not for the last. I love Marcella very much, but my affection often seems to express itself in the urge to wrap my hands round her throat and give her a rattling. Marcella is one of those people who create disasters as a way of filling the time, and then spend the subsequent months boring the pants off the rest of us about how badly she's been treated. Life is never simple for Marcella. There are people who don't feel they're really alive unless they have a tragedy, and she's one of them.

I've spent the best part of 20 years listening to Marcella, through her time at drama school and her blossoming as drama queen. Her world is an uncomfortable hybrid of Mills and Boon and Stephen King. There was the fixation on Leo, who's one of the straightest gay men in the universe, has never shown an iota of interest in women,

though he led her on by paying for her meals, hugging her and letting her call him at three in the morning. She planted herself starkers in his bed one night, and now we can't ask them to the same things in case she throws a scene ("I felt so humiliated. You have no idea").

There were the three years of hysteria and monthly blood tests after she spent two condomless weeks with a hopeless - and very public - junkie ("but I lurved him. You don't understand what it's like"). Everyone who's known her more than a year has had to turn out in the small hours to rescue her from some roadside because she's gone out without any money and had a row with her popsy ("These thing never happen to you"). Imagination plays a large part in Marcella's life. Shame she can't put it to some lucrative use.

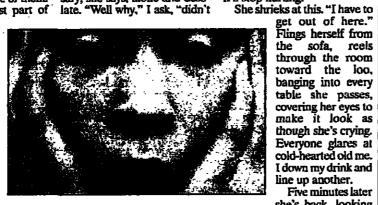
We're in one of those pretentious drinking clubs in Soho fiddle with her eye. She wants to me know if there's actually ("Would members please change the subject, so she's something wrong, won't you?"

DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative struggle

OKAY, I'LL DOTT!

remember to switch off mobile phones while on the premises"), being ignored by waiters while we cram into the corners of a pair of sofas. I've handed over her birthday present, an eggshell porcelain bowl, and she's said what a pity it is it'll get broken so quickly. I'm drinking red, Marcella is drinking mineral water and periodically clutching her stomach to remind me about the food poisoning she got from a lobster two weeks ago. Marcella has had more shellfish poisoning than Mickey Rooney's had wives.

This week, it's the birthday blues. She has spent the anniversary, she says, alone and deso-late. "Well why," I ask, "didn't



you ring anybody?" "I was sup-posed," she replies, "to be being taken to dinner at the OXO tower and then to Paris." "What happened?" "He let me down." "Who?" "Sven. That man I told you about" "Which one?" A small pulse of irritation is starting up in my temples. "The one I met in Waitrose on the King's Road. You know. He took me for coffee and he said he'd love to take me to Paris. And I told him it was my birthday soon."

"Marcella, did you really think that some guy would take you to Paris because you'd had coffee with him in Picasso?" Marcella jerks her chin upwards. "I," she says, "keep my promises. It was awful. I waited all week for him to call, and he never did. He ruined my birthday." "Why didn't you call someone

else? Why didn't you call me?"
"I couldn't," she replies mysteriously. Then she starts to

going to engineer another drama. She digs in her Harvey Nichols bag, pulls out a handkerchief, rubs the eye harder. I offer her some eyedrops. She tosses her rich black hair several times, says something about catching my diseases and accepts them. Then "Aagh! Ooh! Aggh!" she doubles up, kicks the leg of the advertising exec next to her. "Oh, God, that hurts. That's agony. Aaagh! I think I've scratched my eyeball!" I sit back, refusing to be drawn in. Marcella thrashes around a bit more. "What have you put in those?" "Darling, if you stop rubbing bits of mascara into it, it'll stop hurting."

> get out of here." Flings herself from the sofa, reels through the room toward the loo, banging into every table she passes, covering her eyes to make it look as though she's crying. Everyone glares at cold-hearted old me. I down my drink and line up another.

Five minutes later

she's back, looking pale but courageous. "You have no idea," she says, "how much that hurt. Why did you give me those things?" "I thought they might help, Marcella. You were making such a fuss." She clutches her stomach. "Oh, God," she says, "Oooh God." I offer her a Rennie. "This is food poisoning, not indigestion!" she snaps. "If you've had food poisoning for two weeks, don't you think you should see a doctor?" She straightens up, says in a small voice: "I'll see how I feel in a day or so." Pulls another

There was a time when I would have congratulated Marcella on her bravery, patted her arm, but you get tired after a while. Or maybe it's part of the maturing process: once you've seen some really awful things, the made-up ones make you impatient. "Humph," I say. "Well, let

WEIRDO

grimace of ill-treated agony.

## Time to kill or be killed

ime was, time was a public commodity: most people would know what time it was by the firing of a noonday gun, or by looking at a clock on a church or a town hall or a jeweller's shop, or by hearing the nightwatchman explain that it was two o'clock and all was well, if they ever did say that, which frankly I doubt. But with the mass-ownership of watches, time has been broken up, individualised: just as we all keep our own consciences now, instead of relying on the Church to distinguish good and evil for us, so we all keep

our own time of day. Of course, just as we need some common core of morality for society to function, so we need some shared notion of time, or we'd spend our lives missing appointments such a familiar part of the and finding that we hadn't background that we don't stop videoed the last five minutes to think about the point of of favourite television programmes; so most people seems obvious enough: check their watches against public time-keeping every close your deadlines are, at a now and then to make sure time of day when most people



everybody else. But public time-keeping is no longer our primary source of chronological information: instead, we

look at our wrists. One place where time is still publicly announced is on the radio. Time-checks are them. In the mornings, it they're to let you know how they're roughly in line with are in a hurry. Even here, Truss. Michael Maloney and check your watch?

timechecks to tell us the time, and how far we appreciate them as adding to the general breakfast-time sense of bustle.

At other times of day, the time-check takes on a differ- worrier, insanely superstitious ent role - it's there to impart and fanatically punctual; he is a sense of immediacy. Hence, on Radio 4, you get timechecks during news programmes such as PM and The World at One, but not during other live programmes, such as Kaleidoscope. (I'm not sure as he runs baths, lets the cat if The Afternoon Shift bothers with them; then again, the fact buy milk - anything to delay that I haven't noticed is significant in itself.)

Time is not always an issue: not on Radio 3, with its long tradition - now, sadly, being stamped out - of refusing to take any notice of the clock. Not in plays and stories, hold some sinister double either; blunting the flow of meaning; a countdown to real time is one of the purposes of fiction.

An exception to that rule was Thirty Minutes to Kill (Radio 4, Tuesday), a brief

there's room for speculation Haydn Gwynne played a as to how far we rely on couple about to set out on holiday who suddenly find they have half an hour to spare. Truss used the time to examine contrasting attitudes to the clock: she is a compulsive seemingly more laid-back and unhurried, although it turns Out that his apparent relaxation is at least partly a pose to torment her. Their battle of wills lasts a neat 30 minutes, out, goes down to the shops to the evil hour of departure; she, meanwhile, is rapidly losing her grip on sanity.

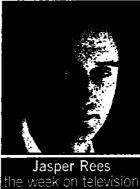
As the minutes ticked by and roles were (a little implausibly) reversed, you worried that the title might murder, perhaps. All in all, interesting as a play which negated its own raison d'être - bow could it matter that it was set in real time when you comedy in real time by Lynne were too busy listening to

## So it's viszontlatasra from them

Gerry Adams embraced electoral triumph on the Friday with a speech delivered in Gaelic and English. A day later you realised where he got the idea from, when Carrie, über-presenter of the Eurovision Song Contest (BBCI, Sat), made part of her keynote welcome in Gaelic. It was either that or staggeringly bad Danish. (Although no worse, in fairness, than that of the Danish entrant himself, who sang a song about a man who falls in love with a telephone operator, delivered in the rap idiom; sort of Hans Christian

Muthafuckason). The co-presenter was that little blond leprechaun from BoyZone. He was so short he made Carrie, towering over him, look like a drag act. There was something too perfectly ferninine about her. You kept on staring at her neck for signs probably Fintan.

You wouldn't put anything past the latest instalment of Eurovision. The Icelandic entry was a notably frank paean to the joys of sadomasochism. The dancing girls, basically contortionists, had done their shopping at Ann Summers. This being the show it was, and held in Ireland to boot, the camera sensibly kept its distance. Terry Wogan, who Euro quota on eroticism. And



all night ("I want you to keep an eye out for a man playing a bunch of grapes"), was shocked. So shocked that he breached Eurovision protocol by lobbing in a quip mid-song. "Are we sure this is not Channel 4?" Not if Michael Jackson, who this week jumped ship apple. Her real name's the song contest is one show to whose interval song was every which he'll happily bid adieu, adios, viszontlatasra.

year the Eurovision Song Contest discovered sex. This cheap entertainment was invented in 1963, but no one told Europrovided its own alternative brand of cheap entertainment. But this year, the Austrian choreography broke the strict

was on supremely good form short musical breaks sewn in to let viewers go off and brew tea. Ireland's yearly attempt to

1997 will go down as the

BoyZones entered, one of them a Hungarian outfit opticouple of GirlZones, including a risible gaggle from Holland.

These days, of course, the entertainment is not so cheap. Like the Conservative Party, or Manchester United, Ireland had won four out of the last five contests. Yet again RTE blew most of its annual budget on production - this time, the punts were plunged into a gigantic blow-up of the set of Blake's Seven. To help foot the bill, they'd clearly rigged up some sort of funding arrangement with the Irish Tourist Board, who used the show as a four-hour advertisement with

court failure has not been a bit as formless as the Swiss entry. Over the years, Britain, the only other country in Europe that knows about pop unneighbourly in this area, annually submitting hopelessly vision, which for 40 years has crocked entries. Bucks Fizz, our most recent victors, "won it in 1862," advised Wogan. "just after the Corn Laws were repealed". This year, for once,

in pursuit of the teenage crush thumping anthem, and note, there were at least three duly won by a (quaintly cobbled) street.

The result seemed suitably mistically called VIP. Plus a in keeping with the new national mood. Britain has voted to rejoin Europe, and Europe welcomed us in as only Europe knows how. "Have one of these." Thanks. After an election where politicians struggled to deliver on the Vision Thing, here was the next best Thing: the Eurovision Thing, a wafty philosophy of peace and harmonies.

And barriers are tumbling down all over the Continent. Whereas entrants used to sing in English or jibberish or a winning combination of both (ladies and gentleman, a big hand for "Boom Bang a Bang"), they now abuse their own languages. Apart from Russia, that is, which fielded a well-preserved woman who from the BBC to the Big Four success. Next year they could didn't look a day over 60 singing of activity from an Adam's Os, has anything to do with it: do worse than enter BoyZone, a song called "Primadonna" The Italians, rather rudely, failed to reciprocate with a song called "Babushka".

It wasn't just the rapping Danes who plumped for an music, has been somewhat American genre. Norway unneighbourly in this area, unburdened itself of a song called "San Francisco", a charming if cheesy hommage to the Beach Boys. It got nul points. The Eurovision Song Contest may be changing but, as they say in Murmansk, we sent over quite a good tub- Rome wasn't built in a day.

### Whatever happened to? Eldorado

DAMIEN, THE BABY

CHANGING

WAARA.

A new soap opera opens on 6 July, 1992 in a blaze of sunshine and publicity. *Eldorado*, the BBC's big gun in the lowest common denominator ratings battle with ITV has all the ingredients of successful soaps in the Eighties in one big frothy mix: escapism / a foreign location à la Neighbours / Dynasty and common people à la EastEnders. A sun, sex, sand and sangria soap set in a siestafilled spot in sunny Spain. David Mellor, the Heritage minister soon to embark on a soap

opera of his own, questions whether it was of 1992, it's a joke - literally. Nouvelle recyecessary to make, with the licence fee, a £10m village in Spain". It's more than just a programme, however - it's a symbol of what programmes BBC bosses think they should be making - ahead of the upcom- of Eldorado tolerable". ing government BBC charter renewal.

YOU'RE NO LONGER INTO

SURREALIST!

The first episode draws 7.3m viewers. Within minutes, that's down to 6.5m; six weeks after launch, 2.8m. By the autumn

Europe and The World

WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy; f,fair; fg,fog; hz,hazy; m,mist;

GMT): c,cloudy: day's figure at 16 61 f 13 55 sn 7 45 f 22 72 c 10 50 c 26 79 n/a 25 77 s 29 84 n/a 63 c 16 61 c 21 70 n/a c 12 54

Munich New York Nice Nicesia Paris Prague Reykjavik Rio de Jan Riyadh Rome Stockholm Sydney Tenerife Tokyo Venice Venna Washington Weilington

cled toilet tissue is advertised with the line "In my previous life, I was an Eldorado script" and a haemorrhoid ointment claims "this makes even sitting through an episode

However, producer Corinne Hollingworth takes over and with the new year the ratings start to rise: one episode involving a suicide gets 8m. She's backed by Members

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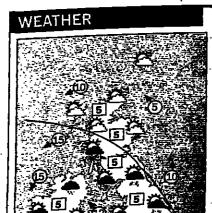
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3.15 3.4 15.50 3.2 226 4.1 14.52 4.0

of the Eldorado Appreciation Society Sandra Sandri (pouting Pilar) insists that "it Espana (TEASE) in Sussex who cite a TV was good experience to work in an English Times survey with nine out of 10 readers in favour of retention.

Importantly, though, one person is not in favour: new BBC controller Alan Yentob. In July 1993, after 156 episodes, it's gone. So it's Dole-dorado for Julie Fernandez (the wheelchair-bound Vanessa Lockhead), signing on at a Job Centre in Ilford, Essex, while

was good experience to work in an English language programme". Franco Rey (Dr Fernandez) has put that experience to use, and currently holds down a translator's job on *The Cook Report*, chasing crooks to the Costa del Sol – "of which", in the words of a BBC spokesman, "there are many", but not apparently, despite the loss of £12m worth of licence fee, the Corporation itself. James Aufenast



The British Isles Northern and eastern regions of England: should start bright with some early sunshine, but showers already over Wales and the West Country will become more widespread with longer spells of rain in places. Northern Ireland will be cool and rather cloudy with limited sunny spells and showery bursts of rain. Southern Scotland should have some sunshine this morning, but a few sharp showers are likely this afternoon. Meanwhile northern Scotland should have dry and fairly bright weather, with possibly the odd shower. Southern and eastern England will have a bright and breezy day tomorrow with sunny spells and a few passing showers. Wales and western England have a higher chance of catching some heavy showers, but there will also be some sunny breaks. Northern Ireland and Scotland will be quite cool with a lot of cloud and a scattering of heavy showers. During the first half of next week it will remain showery but there will be some rea-

Aberdeen c 9 48 Carliste c 11 52 Isles of Scilly s 12 54 Phymouth sh 9 Anglesey c 12 54 Cork sh 11 52 Isles of Scilly s 10 50 Ronaldsway i 10 Scarborough c 9 Carliste c 12 54 Uncoln n/a Scarborough c 9 Carliste c 10 50 Edinburgh sh 8 46 Uzard sh 12 54 Southampton c 14 Scarborough c 10 Scarborou	27	sonable spells in the south ar	of warm sunshine, especially nd east.
	Aberdeen c 12 54 C Anglesey n/a Belfast c 12 54 E Birmingham f 11 52 B Blackpool c 10 50 B Bournermouth sh 12 54 B Brighton c 13 55 B Bristol c 12 54 h Cardill sh 10 50	Cork. sh 11. 52 Jersey Dover c 12 54 Lincoln Dublin sh 9 48 Lincoln Edinburgh sh 8 46 Exeter sh 11 52 Glasgow f 11 52 Glasgow f 11 52 Guernsey c 12 54 Inverness c 11 52 Inverness c 11 52 Inverness c 11 52 Inverness c 13 55	sh 10 50 Ronaldsway 1 10 n/s c 11 52 Strewsbury c 10 sh 12 54 Southampton c 14 12 54 Southend c 13 c 11 52 St Andrews c 10 50 Stornoway c 9 Tree c 10

8:48pm to 5:25am 249pm to 5:23am 8:49pm to 5:18am &=51pm to 5:17am 8:55pm to 5:16am 8:56pm to 5:14am 9-59pm to 5:06am .9:01pm to 5:04am 9:13pm to 5:12am to 5:11am

NO<sub>2</sub> Good Good Good Good Good Good O<sub>3</sub> Good Good Good Good Good Good Good London S England Wales C England N England Scotland

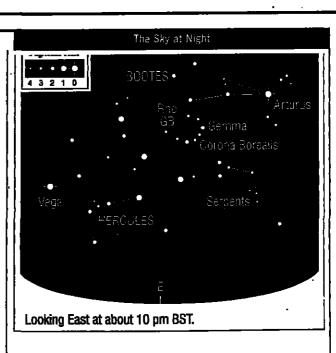
Outlook for Today
NO2
London Good
S England Good
Wales
C England Good
N England Good
N England Good
Scotland Good
N Ireland Good O<sub>3</sub> Good Good Good Good Good Good Hull (Albert Dock) 9.21 8.5 21.48 8.3

AA Roadwatch Samey, M25 J8-10. Various re and lane closures both ways between Reigne and the A3 as major widening work continues. Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraffow in operation across the Avonancoth Beidge with a 50mph speed limit. Reguter rusts bour delays Staffordshire, A50 Stoke-on-Trent. Major construction work at Meir. Long peak-time delays. West Yorkshire, M.1.147. Major longteam readworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the MI, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

Edinburgh, M9 Newbridge Spur. Major roadworks at Newbridge Roundabout (M8.12). Expect delays. Cambridgeshire, A1 Alconbury. Construction work underway with a contraflow and various lane closures. West Midlands, M6 J6. Long-term readwords - the slip read from Salford Circus to the Midnorth is closed. Diversions by Lichfield Road (A5127). All, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on the Green Man roundabout.

Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 39p per min (chasp rate) 49p per min (all other times) inc VAT.

Full Moone May 22



Two weeks ago, astronomers announced the latest discovery of a planet going round a star other than our Sun. The star is Rho Coronae Borealis, nestling in the northern crown, and it is said to have a planet comparable to Jupiter. The evidence for the planet is indirect. Not even the world's most powerful telescopes can actually see it. But its 5th magnitude parent, a Sun-like star lying 50 light years away, is just bright enough to be detectable with the naked eye in a dark sky.

The constellation Corona Borealis is currently well up over the eastern horizon as it gets dark. Small, and relatively faint, it is nevertheless rather easy to find because of its compact semicircular shape. The brightest jewel in the crown is the second magnitude star now often appropriately called Gemma. Its tra-ditional Arabic name though is Alphecca – the bright one of

**Jacqueline Mitton** 

# TODAY'S TELEVISION

here's something weird happening on Saturday evenings on BBC1. It started with Bug decimo whizz-kids solve hi-tech crimes) and Crime Traveller (time-travelling police couple retroactively solve crimes), and now continues with Jonathan Creek (Sat BBC1), in which designer of magic tricks and an investigative journalist solve deemingly impossible crimes. Saturday primetime seems to like become the testing ground for the more playful, fantastical end of the home-grown mystery and suspense market. Coincidentally or not, Bugs, Crime Traveller and Jonathan Creek all have a distinct flavour of the 1960s – of The Avengers, early Dr Who and Mission Impossible. Is there a haby-boomer ghost in the BBG machine?

Is there a baby-boomer ghost in the BBG machine?

Jonathan Creek stars Caroline Queating who, having unshackled herself from husband Paul Mercan and the ghetto of Men Behaving Badh (where she plays the mankless but pivotal role

of Dorothy), finds herself coupled to yet another comic - Alan Davies, who plays the shambling, duffle-coated illusionist's assistant of the title. It must be said that Davies, with his dopey, sub-Eddie Izzard patter, is more appealing here than

in the countless comedy panel shows he graces. Written by David Renwick (One Foot in the Grave), these are basically "locked room" mysteries with a magical bent. The first story involves a lecherous painter, shot dead in flagrante by a masked intruder. The wife, a glossy women's magazine editor, is suspected, but, the morning of the crime, she never left her 13th floor, sealed-windowed office. Or did she? Very entertaining it is, too - spilling the beans on several hoary old tricks of the illusionist's repertoire. Though, I shouldn't volunteer for any Magic Circle sword tricks, if I were Renwick.

A real-life mystery is posed by The Works documentary,

## Gerard Gilbert recommends Jonathan Creek Sat 8.10pm BBC1

ashes of La Fenice, the gorgeous 200-year-old Venetian opera house, burned to its brick shell by arsonists in January 1996. It seems that the Mafia torched La Fenice, whose lovely gilt and painted infrastructure ("Like being inside a diamond": Dame Joan Sutherland) witnessed premiers of both La Traviata and Rigoletto - and that a new form of terrorism had been born. It's already been dubbed "cultural terrorism" (the Mafia similarly bombed the Uffizi art gallery in Florence) and Franco Zeffirelli reckons this one is as serious as the killing of a person. The Mafia do that as well, of course.

"You have to look as if you could work down a mine, as well as read Proust," was the advice given to the fledgling actor Sean Connery - and in the midst of Scene by Scene with Sean Connery (Sat BBC2), an extremely relaxed chat in Edinburgh with

A Death in Venice (Sun BBC2), which pokes among the a be-kilted Moviedrome host Mark Cousins, the one-time navy does, indeed, unselfconsciously drop Proust. Connery doesn't do that many interviews, and this is the best one I can rememher seeing. It's non-showbizzy, and helped enormously by Cousins knowing his movie onions. By the way, did you know

that Noël Coward was originally going to play Dr No?

Dancing for Dollars (Sun C4), about how an American businessman got himself into an awful lot of trouble when he tried importing the Bolshoi Ballet into Las Vegas, is written about by Louise Levene elsewhere in today's paper. Meanwhile by Louise Levene eisewhere in totaly's paper.

Everyman (Sun BBC1) relates the extraordinary story of the Sun BBC1 relates the extraordinary story of the Sun BBC1 relates the extraordinary story of the Sun BBC1. by that Pulitzer Prize winning photograph from the Vietnam War of a napalm-scorched nine-year-old girl running screaming a country road. That was Kim.

#### BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Harry and the Hendersons. 7.25 News, Weather. 7.30 Felix the Cat. 7.45 Babar. 8.10 Albert the 5th Musketeer. 8.35 The Flintstones, 9.00 Phantom 2040. 9.20 The Incredible Hulk. 9.45 Grange Hill. 10.15 Sweet /alley High. 10.40 The O Zone. 11.00 FIELD The Legend of Grizzly Adams (Ken Kennedy 1990 US). Gene

Edwards is the mountain man whose chums include Chyde the skunk and Martha the bear (5748774). 12.12 Weather (8357565). 12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus

(1212584). 1.00 News (85795294). 1.05 The Badminton Horse Trials. Live coverage of the cross-country phase (2671720). 1.50 Racing from Lingfield: the 2.00 race (80219923). 2.10 The Badminton Horse Trials (10787590). 2.25 Racing from Lingfield: the 2.30 race (10782045). 2.40 Golf: Action from the third round of the Benson and Hedges International Open from the Oxfordshire Golf Club (9848294). 2.50 Racing from Lingfield: the 3.00 race (4805359). 3.10 Golf (11435300). 4.45 Final

Score (1481923). 5.20 News, Weather (7) (5005958). 5.30 Local News, Weather (790039). 5.35 Tom and Jerry (R) (671519). 5.45 Dad's Army (R)(T) (449836). 6.15 The New Adventures of Superman

(S)(T) (422328). 7.00 Whatever You Want. Three oldies who want to sky-dive with the Red Devils and a trio of keep-fit fanatics who want their own personal trainer for a year are among Gaby Roslin's dreamers this week (S) (908132). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Terry

Wogan takes over (S)(T) (329010). 8.10 Jonathan Creek. See Preview, above (S)(T) (9580381). 9.40 Victoria Wood: Live in Your Own

Home. Live in 1994, at any rate her Christmas special (293300).

10.30 News, Sport, Weather (589763).

10.50 FIX Shattered (Wolfgang Petersen

1991 US). Above-average, Hitchcock-style thriller in which Tom Berenger wakes up with amnesia after a car crash and comes to realise that all was not well before the accident. Bob Hoskins is the private eye helping out and Greta Scacchi is the femme fatale who also happens to be his wife (55677855). 12.25 They Think It's All Over (2791508).

12.55 Top of the Pops. The UK's Eurovision winner, Katrina and the Waves, and Gary Barlow play live in the studio (R)(S) (9761633).

1.25 ELM Death Line (Gary Sherman 1973 UK). Something nasty is stalking the tunnels of the London Underground, and we don't mean the one demanding £10 from passengers without tickets. Donald Pleasence and Christopher Lee star in this highly entertaining horror fantasy (3503633).

2.50 Weather (1047188). To 2.55am.

#### BBC2

6.20 Open University: Discovering 16th-Century Strasbourg (8445923). 6.45 Elements Organised – the Periodic Table (8938294). 7.10 From Public to Private (2135855). 8.00 Open

University (174403).

10.30 MenZone. Oh dear, BBC2 seem to have caught Channel 4's unfortunate habit of zoning things. Whatever happened to eclecticism and the element of pot luck eciecocism and the element of portions in television viewing? This particular zone is doubly unfortunate, in that it is especially for men – a choice which seems to have been made without reference to the other channels (which are all showing sport or children's programmes). And even then, its idea of what constitutes a man is very Brut and what constitutes a man is very Brut and Old Spice ish. Anyhow, anyhow, Quentin Willson is the presenter of the following three programmes (S) (3190132).

10.35 Top Gear (R)(S)(T) (2453687).

11.05 The Big Deat. Documentary about a blood stock agent (7806213).

11.40 Hancock's Half Hour (R) (1826687).

12.10 The Sky at Night (R)(S)(T) (7530768).

12.10 The Sky at Night (R)(S)(T) (7530768).

12.55 The Under Capricom (Alfred Hitchcock 1949 US). A Hitchcock turkey - a grim melodrama fascinating turkey – a grim melodrama fascinating in its miscasting. Ingrid Bergman as an English toff? Margaret Leighton as a servant? The setting is early 19th-century Australia (although it was filmed in England) where Bergman's Lady Henrietta elopes with stable hand Joseph Cotten (44321768).

2.50 Close Up on Hitchcock. Donald Spoto discusses Molocing (\$) (9835720).

discusses Notorious (S) (9835720). 3.00 The Badminton Horse Trials, Live

coverage (S) (64032497). 5.15 The Saint. Our immaculate hero takes a holiday in Wales (R) (3712381).

holiday in Wales (R) (3712381).
6.05 Rugby Special. Highlights of this afternoon's Pilkington Cup final between Leicester and Sale (S) (528590).
7.05 News, Sport, Weather (T) (436749).
7.10 Correspondent. The plight of Albanian refugees in Italy, and "biopiracy" in the jungles of Ecuador (S)(T) (799377).
7.55 Scene by Scene with Sean Connery. See Preview, above (R) (S) (913010).
8.45 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim Hacker decides that reintroducing conscription would be

8.45 Yes, Prime Minister. Jim Hacker decides that reintroducing conscription would be a good idea (R) (S) (715381).

9.15 Have I Got News for You. Last night's cornedy quiz with Christine Hamilton, wife of a certain former MP (S) (712294).

9.45 The Hill (Sidney Lumet 1965 UK).

Lumet was one of the first directors to spot that there was more to Sean Connery than James Bond – and Connery, then at the height of his Bond fame – took time out to star in Lumet's severe portrait of military discipline, set in a British detention camp (267233).

11.45 Later With Jools Holland. With Beck,

Rollins Band, David Byrne collaborating with British trip-hoppers Morcheeba and the Brand New Heavies (S) (142671). 12.45 Close Up on Hitchcock. Teresa Wright on Shadow of a Doubt (S) (9866527)

12.50 TIM Cuba (Richard Lester 1979 US). Lester's incoherent love story set against the backdrop of Fidel Castro's revolution in Cuba. Sean Connery plays a mercenary come to train Batista's troops and who meets up with old flame Brooke Adams (263017). To 2.40am.

REGIONS. Wales: 11.30pm Handel in the Bay. 12.30 Later with Jools Holland. 1.35 Film: Cuba.

### ITV/LWT

6.00 GMTV: News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.50 Our House. 7.10 The Wuzzles. 7.40

House, 7.10 The Wuzzles, 7.40
Disney's Wake Up in the Wild Room.
8.55 Power Rangers Zeo (4815590).
9.25 Mashed (S) (60835403).
11.00 The Chart Show (S) (1640590).
11.45 F1: Monaco Grand Prix – Qualifying. Live coverage of the qualifying session (S) (838126).

(S) (838126).

1.15 News, Weather (T) (85881045).

1.20 London Weekend Today (85068126).

1.25 Cartoon Time (85067497).

1.30 SeaQuest DSV (S)(T) (8980519).

2.25 ENEX The Scarlet and the Black (Jerry London 1082115). No not Standbal

London 1983 US). No, not Stendhal, London 1983 US). No, not Stendinal, but Gregory Peck as a kind of wartime Vatican Pimpernel, helping pipe PoWs to freedom (90099565).

4.50 News, Sport, Weather (7) (1162652).

5.05 London Weekend Tonight (8235300).

5.20 F1: Monaco Grand Prix – Special.
Latest developments (S) (8310045).

5.40 New Baywatch. Mitch is nominated as a magazine's Bachelor of the Month. Jellyfish grief elsewhere (SAT) (637107).

## Channel 4

6.40 Miraculous Meliops (R) (8037519). 7.05 The Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog (R)(S) (7499958). 7.35 Creepy Crawlers (S)(T) (8139316). 8.00 Transworld Sport (76497). 9.00 Morning Line (43584).

10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (11300). 11.00 NBA 24/7 (S) (77756). 12.00 Rawhide (81584).

1.00 SIM 23 Paces to Baker Street (Henry Hathaway 1956 US). The first half of a double-bill directed by that studio workhorse Henry Hathaway is this thriller set in Hollywood London. Van Johnson plays a blind playwright who overhears plans for kidnap and murder. Vera Miles co-stars (T) (53793039). 2.55 The House on 92nd Street (Henry Hathaway 1945 US). Trend-setting,

documentary-style spy drama about Nazis in WWII New York and their factbased attempts to steal atom bomb

secrets (T) (53439294). 4.30 Blind Love. Animation (7084652).



Shattered 10.50pm BBC1 Femme fatale Greta Scacchi gives amnesiac Tom Berenger a helping hand

6.35 You've Been Framed! (R)(S) (956768).
7.05 Barrymore (S)(T) (551768).
8.00 News, Weather, Lottery Result (T) (547749).
8.15 Stars in Their Eyes. A Glaswegian woman imitates Cher and a man from Lincoln pretends to be Boyzone's Ronan Keating (S)(T) (241565).
9.00 A Touch of Frost. David Jason's detective inspector investigates a death

9.00 A louch of Prost. David Jacobs
detective inspector investigates a death
in the hunting field (R)(S)(T) (2010).

11.00 The Carmes Opening Night Party.
Bruce Willis and Gary Oldman are
expected. After all, it's their film, The Fifth Element, which is being shown. Clint Eastwood is a possible (94687).

12.00 Grad Deadly Intentions... Again?
(James Steven Sadwith 1991 US). Again? Yes, again, except Harry Hamlin takes over Michael Biehn's role as the would-be wife murderer from the 1990 mini series. He is out of jail and about to mini series. He is out to jain and about to marry again – but is he also about to return to his old ways? (106879).

1.55 Box Office America (8545492).

2.10 Club Nation (R)(S)(T) (6812430).

3.10 Film: Up the Chastity Belt (Bob Kellett 1971 UK). Frankle Howerd is the

manservant of Sir Coward de Custard-yes, that sort of thing (149463). 4.45 TV Sports Classics (66177275). 4.55 Cybernet (72066237). To 5.25am.

4.35 Running Wild. Documentary about British sled-dog racers, first shown in Short Stories (R)(S)(T) (9688774). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S)(7) (7987497). 6.30 Right to Reply (S)(T) (213). 7.00 A Week in Politics (S) (4045). 8.00 [III.] Tora! Tora! Tora! (Richard

Fleischer, Toshio Masuda and Kinji Fukasaku 1970 US/Jap). Reconstruction of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, starring Martin Balsam, Jason Robards and Soh Yamamura (T) (97689313).

10.40 Homicide: Life on the Street. A black youth is murdered at an exclusive prep school (S)(T) (957861).

11.35 Hill Street Blues (R)(T) (807687). 12.35 Death in Brunswick (John Ruane 1990 Austr). Offbeat comedy set in the working-class, Greek-Cypriot community. Sam Neill plays a heavy-drinking short-order cook in a seedy nightclub who gets involved in murder while have with another man's fiancée (746546). 2.35 Baadasss TV (R)(S) (2796459).

3.05 Rock of the North. Lisa Stansfield in concert (S) (2277689). 4.05 The Real World (S) (55651817). 4.35 One for the Road (72086091). To

## Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (2588836). 6.30 Attractions. Tim Vincent and some ideas for the weekend (R)(S) (7256045).

7.00 5 News Early (S) (5794132). 7.30 Havakazoo: Wimzie's House 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (8623861). (5617039).

8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunis (802:3601).
8.30 Land of the Lost. Upcoming attractions on Channel 5 (8622132).
9.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (2487039).
9.55 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (2916132).
10.50 Mag Upfront. Celebs and their embarrassing moments, reenacted by Katie Puckrick and young actors (S)

11.00 Turnstyle. Gail McKenna and Dominik rxx990768).

11.00 Turnstyle. Gail McKenna and Dominik
Diamond report on the weekend's top
sporting clashes (S) (59001671).

12.50 5 News (S) (15314652).

1.00 The Mag. DIY entertainment show by
and for young people (S) (4637294).

2.00 USA High. Teen sitcom about the
students of an American school in Paris.
A famous fashion obotographer is on A famous fashion photographer is on campus for a shoot (S) (38966749).

2.20 The Mag (S) (6460565). 3.15 Sunset Beach Omnibus (18918300). 6.00 5 News and Sport (1957958). 6.05 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys.
Adventure series chronicling the battles and romances of the half-man, half-

god. iolaus's pride and arrogance cause him to be sentenced to death by the gods (S) (3562855). 6.55 Night Fever. Suggs hosts the karaoke entertainment show joined by Philippa

Fordham, Julia Bradbury, Sam Fox, Susan Maxwell, Davina McCall, Lee Murray and Steve Punt (S) (6969126). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S) (3125836). 8.10 JAG. Adventure series about a Navy lawyer who travels around the world

investigating military cases (7202836). 9.00 Halifax fp. Our Australian forensic psychiatrist feels the heat when she criticises a fellow professional after a murdenous mental patient is released (S)(T) (90469213).

10.50 TIME 8 Million Ways to Die (Hal Ashby 1986 US). Robert Towne rewrote Oliver Stone's adaptation of Lawrence Block's excellent source novel, a pedigree which does nothing to suggest the resulting dreamness. Jeff Bridges is the alcoholic ex-cop who gets involved with high-priced call-girl Rosanna Arquette and her seedy friends. Andy Garcia and pre-Baywatch Alexandra Paul can't help much (69019497).

1.05 Files Stranger's Kiss (Matthew Chapman 1983 US). Officeat little thriller, inspired by Kubrick's Killer's Kiss, and set in 1950s Hollywood. B-movie director Peter Coyote casts a gangster's girlfriend in his picture in return for funding (8015140). 2.45 FILM Dawn - Portrait of a Teenage

Runaway (Randal Kleiser 1976 US). Salacious tale of a 15-year-old runaway girl's experiences of the seedy side of iffe in the big city (1973701). 4.30 The Road. Series of minidocumentaries about country and

western music (87823121). 4.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (4204237). 5.30 WideWorld (2545121). To 6.00am.

## ITV/Regions

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.20pm Angla News and Westi ...

As London except: 1.25 Warner Cartoon (85798381).

er (85068126). 1.25 Warner Cartoon (85798381).

1.35 Uar Lier - The World's Greatest Faltes, Frauds ...

and Fibbers (40947045). 2.00 Film: The Arnats ...

ing Captain Nemo (800768). 3.55 seaQuest DSV ...

ing Captain Nemo (800768). 3.55 seaQuest DSV ...

er (8235300). 12.00 Film: Deadly Intentions ...

er (8235300). 12.00 Film: Deadly Intentions ...

Again? (564879). 1.40 Film: Killer Instiget ...

(681966). 3.20 Cool Vibes (49454904). 3.45 Field ...

(681966). 3.20 Cool Vibes (49454904). Some Shift ter Skelter (1614695). 4.30 - 5.30em Shift ...

(70995).

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.20pm Central News and Weather (85068126). 1.25 Premiere (22349039). Weather (85068126). 1.25 Premiere (22349039). 1.55 Cartoon Time (80227942). 2.20 Film: Barney (678861). 3.55 seaQuest DSV (9994381). 1.5.05 Cantral News and Weather (5915381). 5.10 World of Wonder (4590671). 3.15 Dating the Environment (1829237). 4.05 Jobinder (7667169). 5.20 - 5.30am Asian Eye (8168411).

HTV WMES
As London except: 1.20pm HTV News
(85068126). 1.25 seaQuest DSV (2647590). 2.20
Airwolf (7397478). 3.15 Film: Man About the
House (11436039). 5.05 HTV Wates News and
Sports Results (8235300). 12.00 Film: Deadly Intentions... Again? (564879). 1.40 Film: Killer Intentions... Again? (564879). 1.40 Film: Killer Intentions... Again? (564879). 4.30 - 5.30am
Shift (70985). Shift (70985).

HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: I.20pm HTV News Update
(85068126). 3.15 World of Wonder (1560756).
3.35 Film: The Plank (6808584). 4.15 The List
(7964687). 5.05 - 5.20pm HTV West News, Sports
Results and Weather (8235300).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 1.20pm Meridian News and Weather (85063126), 1.25 A405 (22349039). 1.55 The Road Show (40850565), 3.55 seaCust DSV (9994381), 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (8235300), 12.00 Film: Deadly Intentions... Again? (564879), 1.40 Film: Killer Instinct (681966), 3.20 Cool Vibes (49454904), 3.45 Hetter Skelter (1614695), 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (70985).

WESTCOUNTRY
AS London except: 1.20pm Westcountry News (85068126). 1.25 Birthday People (85067497). 1.30 Film: Mister Ten Per Cent (29300). 3.00 Airwolf (8190229). 3.55 seaQuest DSV (9994381). 5.05 Westcountry News (8235300). 12.00 Film: Ceadly Intentions... Again? (564879). 1.40 Film: Killer Instinct (681966). 3.20 Cool Vibes (49454904). 3.45 Helter Skelter (1614695). 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (70985). 5.30am Shift (70985).

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.20pm Calendar News and Weather (85068126). 1.25 Airwolf (2647590). 2.20 Film: You Know What Sailors Are (678861). 3.55 seaCuest DSV (9994381). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (5915381). 5.10 Scoreline (4590671). 12.00 Film: Deadly Intentions.. 4gain? (115527). 1.50 In Bed with Medianer (8546121). 2.20 Film: Son of Dracula\* (3248256). 3.40 Funny Business (19659850). 4.10 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (40192411). 4.35 - 5.30 Murder, She Wrote (6892430).

As Yorkshire except: 1.20pm North East News (85068126). 5.05 North East News (5915381). 5.10 Cartoon (5003590). 5.15 - 5.20pm Scoreline (5002861). CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST

SA: As C4 except: 10.00am Terry Pratchett's Jungle Quest (69403). 10.30 The Monkes (51855). 12.00 Film: Eight O'Clock Walk\* (538039). 1.35 Ethys Above 11s The Wayes\* (94129107). 3.25 Film: Above Us The Waves\* (94129107). 3.25
Film: Run Silent, Run Deep\* (60491584). 6.30
Springhill (213). 7.00 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (528774). 7.15 Lwyfan (453039). 7.45 Cerdd a Chan (532774). 8.20 Hel Straeon (553297). 8.50 Pengelli (910671). 9.20 Film: Four Weddings and a Funeral (73595316). 11.35 Homicide: Life on the Street (807687). 5.00 - 5.30am Let the Blood Run Free (94169). Blood Run Free (94169).

#### Radio

(97.6-99.8MHz PM) 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodler 12.30 Lisa ('Anson 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Ra dio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Fathers of Sound 4.00-6.00am Annie Nightingale

#### Radio 2 (88-90.2NHz FM)

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Carrott's Cornedy Choice 1.30 The News Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Free-man 5.30 Fairport Convention in Concert 6.30 Reading Music 7.30 Kiss Me Kate (R) 10.00 Book 2 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Patrick Lunt 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

#### Radio 3 (90.2-92 4MHz RIO

5.55am Weather; News Headlines. 7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions. Michael

Berkeley's guest is Sir Roy Strong, a former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum and now a respected writer on various aspects of cultural history. 1.00 News; Vintage Years. (R) 3.00 BBC Festival of Brass. Britannia Building Society Band/Phillip McCann. Cyrll Jenkins: Corlolanus, Robert Simoson: Volcano. Eric Ball: A Kensington

Concerto. Withred Heaton: Con-

4.00 Sibelius Experience. A radio tantasy which tells the story of Jean Sibelius's struggle with the composition of the Flith Sym-

#### Choice



For anyone with four hours to spare, this live broadcast from Leeds of Wagner's opera Tannhäuser (6.05pm R3) might just fill the gap (you won't find a lot else on the . radio this evening). Tenor Jeffrey Lawton takes the lead as the medieval knight tom between two ideals of womanhood in this new production by Opera North.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests.
5.45 Schumann, Funf Stucke im
Volkston, Op 102. Lilia Schulz-Bayrova (cello), Christoph Berner

- (piano). 6.05 Tannhāuser. Wagner's epic opera live from the Grand Theatre, Leeds. Sung in German. Rita Cullis, soprano (Elisabeth), Anne-Marte Owens, mezzo (Venus), Jeffrey Lawton, tenor (Tannhauser), Jeffrey Stewart, tenor (Waiter), Pichard Berkeley Steele, tenor (Heinrich), Chorus of Opera North, English Northern Philharmonia/Paul Daniel. See Choice, above.

Choice, acove. 7.10 Interval. 7.30 Tannhauser, Act 2. 8.35 Peter Redgrove. A poetry read-ing given at last year's Poetry In-ternational festival in London. 8.55 Tannhauser, Act 3. 10.15 Between the Ears. The last of six experimental radiophonic

11.00 Impressions. Includes a specially recorded studio session by Zyklus, a band whose semi-improvised sounds combine acoustic instruments with the electronics of the Zyktus MIDI oerformance system.

Radio 4 62.4-94.6MOHz FML, 198MHz UND 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather.

7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; Agenda. 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12,00 Money Box

12.25 The News Quiz. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Any Answers? 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Chaos by 2.30 Saturday PlayIntue: Clease Cheeks
Design: By Lemn Sissay, Poetry,
music and mayhem – the Queen
Is coming to Manchester. A journey through the sound of the city
as experienced by DJ Tempo.
4.00 News; Cabbages and Kings.
4.30 Sissaya New; 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4. 5.40 You Probably Think This Song

is about You.

5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Offspring. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Paul

Allen talks to the celebrated tele-vision dramatist Alan Bleasdale. This month sees his latest offering on Channel 4, Melissa. On These Days. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes.

CaseDOOK of STRETRICK PROFILES.

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Five mysteries starring Clive Merrison as Holmes and Michael Williams as Dr Watson, (R) 9.35 Classics with Kay.
9.35 Classics with Kay.
9.50 Ten to Ten. This week, religious affairs broadcaster, Mike
Ford on Ceitic clues to Christian

10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre: First Forum. By Tamara Griffiths. On the west coast of Scotland, a community of hermaphrodites live in quiet seclusion – until journalists arrive to investigate. With Sue Johnston, Andrew Schofield and

melia Bullmore. (R) 11,15 Irish icons. (R) 1.30 Stanza on Stage. Grace
Nichols talks to Simon Armitage
about her new long poem. Sunris, which was inspired by camival in Trinidad, which she reads vith John Agard as Montezuma and accompanying steel drum music by Aubrey Bryan. 12.00 News.

12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Story: The Disappearance. By Chitra Banerjee Divakarumi. Read by Garrick Hagon. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast.

Radio 4 LW 192 4-94.6MRts FML 198MHz LVA No Variations

Radio 5 (693, 909 kitz MM)

(83, 90% km)
6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian
Hayes at Breakfast 9.00 Weekend
11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Hold the
Front Page 12.00 Richard Littlejohn 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Six0-Six 8.00 The Treatment 9.00
Dallyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives
10.30 Asian Perspective 11.00
News Extra 12.00 After Hours
2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am
Morning Reports Morning Reports

Classic FM

(100-101.9Mbz FM) 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

**World Service** 

(198th: UM) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 On Your Behalf 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Review 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Global Business

5.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Masters of Their Art 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Quiz

Virgin Radio [1215, 1197-1250kk NW 105,8Nbb Rb) 6.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 Russ n' Jono's Greatest Hits 3.00 The Virgin Album Chart with Robin Banks 6.00 Richard Porter 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

## Satellite/cable

7.00am My Little Pony (38045). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (44652). 8.00 Press Your Luck (94584). 8.30 Love Connection (93855). 9.00 Quantum Leap (93855). 9.00 quantum ceap (61958). 10.00 Kung Fu – The Legend Continues (40836). 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (24749). 11.30 Sea Rescue (24749), 11.30 Sea Rescue (25478), 12.00 Wrestling (71520), 1.00 Wrestling (29768), 2.00 Star Trek (26768), 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (29294), 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (11229), 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (4687), 6.00 Xena: Warrior Princess (59872), 7.00 Hercules: The Leg-endary Journeys (48861), 8.00 Coppers (5364), 8.30 Cops I (2519), 9.00 Cops II (37213), 9.30 The Serial Killers (11749).

9.30 The Serial Killers (11749). 10.00 Law and Order (47132). 11.00 LA Law (41565). 12.00 The Movie Show (91411). 12.30 LAPD (78072). 1.00 Dream On (41188). 1.30 Saturday Night, Sunday Moming (57237). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (4189184).

5MT 2 7.00pm Superboy (3349126). 7.30 Superboy (3136768). 8.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (7368126). 9.00 Pacific Drive (7444590). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (2463923). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (2472671). 11.00 Duckman (6722045). 11.30 Duckman (9707039). 12.00-6.00am Hlt Mix Long Play (4458614).

MOVIE CHANNEL 6.20am The Fabulous Adventures of Baron Munchausen (8827687). 7.35 Robotix: The Movie 7.35 R00013: The Movie (52875872), 9.15 Stella\* (1278328), 10.40 The Magic Bub-ble (40553652), 2.15 Gunga Din\* (158652), 2.15 Blockade (977039), 4.00 My Summer Story (6381), 6.00 Clifford (49590).

8.00 The River Wild (55107). 10.00 Bad Company (358652). 11.50 Separate Lives (557861). 1.35 Falling for You (246817). 3.10 Red Shoe Diarles: The Game (6390053). 4.30-6.00am The Magic Bubble (17430).

SKY MOVIES 6.00am Man of La Mancha (19668381). 8.15 Pointman (93528768). 10.00 Death Car on (93328766), 10,00 Beath Cal the Freeway (47728497), 12,10 A Pyromaniac's Love Story (709565), 2,00 Amore! (606039), 3,50 The Power Within (189107), 5,30 Torn and Jerry: The Movie (82478). 7.00 A Pyromaniac's Love Story (47749). 9.00 The Puppet Masters (56836), 11,00 Red Shoe Diaries No 8: Night of Abandon (59861). 12.30 Above the Rim (159121). 2.10 Secrets (5313053). 3.40-6.00am Those Lips, Those Eyes (54008275).

6.00pm Pocketful of Miracles (91704107), 8.20 The Long Walk Home (72716478). 10.00 Bachelor Party (8937213). 11.50 Hard Times (8337381). 1.25 Sometime a Great Notion (3435411). 3.20-5.00am The Spanish Main (1571898). SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sports (83519). 7.30 Aerobics (99126). 8.00 Sailing (91010), 8.30 Racing (90381), 9.00 Super League (46590), 11.00 9.00 Super Leggis (4939). 11.00 Hold the Back Page (71774). 12.00 Sports Saturday (50749). 2.00 Rugby (321519). 5.00 Sports Saturday Results (8381). 6.00 Ath-letics (4671). 6.30 Futbol Mundial (5923), 7.00 Spanish Football (542300). 9.30 Sports Saturday (38229). 11.30 Motor Sport (469958). 2.00-4.30am Spanish Football (835643).

SKY SPORTS 2 SRY SPORTS 2 7,00am Soccer AM (9665346). 11,00 End Zona (6360890). 12,00 Ice Hockey (3504565). 1,00 World Sports (7514738). 1.30 WTA Tennis (5924132). 4.00 Sailing (9156749). 4.30 Surfing (4053229), 5.30 World League of American Football (5280590), 9.80

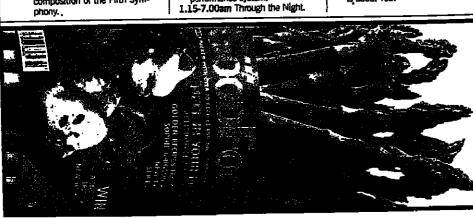
Boxing (1824039). 11.00 Rugby: Union (4056316). 12.30-1.00am Sailing (7183701). SKY SPORTS 3 12.00noon Survival of the Fittest (15237749). 12.30 Snowboard (95143855). 1.00 Motor Sport (30896855). 3.30 Survival of the Fittest (23778584). 4.00 ice-Hockey (80660923), 6.00 Recfrig (73518942), 8.30 Sailing (80679671), 9.00 Golf (37512584), 11.00 Inside the PGA

Tour (69866316): 11.30-12.00midnight Survival of the Fittest (62739720). LIVE TV
6.00am Pin Money 7.00 Fashion
7.30 Sport 8.00 A Game of Two
Scarves 8.30 Sham Rock Quiz' 8.45
Looking for Love 9.00 Pet Squad
9.30 Revelations 10.00 Fashion
10.30 Agony 10.45 Looking for
Love 11.00 Pet Squad 11.30 That
TV 12.00 Fash and Fortune 12.30
Why Files? 1.00 Agony 2.00 Trail
TV 2.30 Fashion 3.00 Agony 3.30
Fate and Fortune 4.00 Pin Meney
4.30 Sport 5.00 Sham Rock Quiz
5.30 Agony 6.00 Fashion 6.30
Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 A
Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Busilio
9.00 Handy Hunks; Sham Rock
Quiz 9.30 Eva's Seventies Pop
Show 10.00 Topless Darts; Spot
10.20 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 4.44 LIVE TV

10.20 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up at 11.00 Topless Darts, Fate and E

tune 11.30 Sex 12.00 Handy & Hunks; Erotica Exotica 12.30 Kg

TV 1.30 Shopping 2.00 Sex 2.30 6.00 Night-time programmes



# Our May Issue's Full Of Delicious Tips.

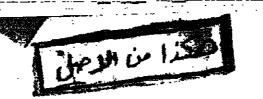
Great Bank Holiday menus, classic We follow Sophie Grigson's new series, Normandy dishes and irresistible golden- Taste of the Times; we've the start of topped gratins are just some of over 80 MasterChef 1997; and we've a guide to mouth-watering recipes in our May issue. your favourite food programmes.

Good Food On Air.

GOOD FOOD AND DRINK ADVICE. Part Two of our wine course has more grape varieties and how to spot faults. And we steer you through food scares and

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BBC Good Food Magazine On Sale Now.



Stephen Vales

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